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## In interview with Jerusalem Post editor Ari Rath Austrian leader sees E-W thaw bringing help for Soviet Jews

VIENNA. — Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz said this week that resumption of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union will depend on the lessening of tension between the two superpowers. He also reiterated Austria's readiness to provide all necessary facilities for Soviet Jews when they are again allowed to leave Russia on their way to Israel or to the U.S.

Speaking in a special interview with *The Jerusalem Post* on the eve of his departure for Moscow, Sinowatz said his meetings with the top Soviet leaders will be held at an opportune time since there are much better chances now for a renewed U.S.-Soviet dialogue following President Ronald Reagan's re-election. Austria, which is situated at the

"cutting line" between East and West, has maintained its neutrality for the past three decades although it is a parliamentary democracy. Sinowatz said. This, in fact, strengthens our position, as we are always in favour of a dialogue and the lessening of tension between the superpowers, he added.

He did not regard last week's incident on the Austrian-Czechoslovakian border — in which Czech border guards killed a Czech refugee inside Austrian territory — as being linked in any way to Vienna's relations with Moscow. "It was a serious but isolated incident over which we voiced our strong protest to Prague," Sinowatz explained, adding that Austria's relations with

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IDF vehicles block the roads in Ramallah's central square yesterday, while soldiers chase two young men who were inciting stone-throwing demonstrators. One of them was shot dead and the other wounded.

(Andee Brummann)

## 1 dead, 1 hurt as army quells Ramallah riot

Jerusalem Post Reporter  
Passions aroused by the Palestine National Council meeting in Amman yesterday claimed their second victim in two days. A 21-year-old student died of gunshot wounds suffered when IDF forces put down a violent demonstration in Ramallah. A second student was wounded.

A statement from the IDF spokesman said the dead man was Bakr Ali Abdullah, a student at a local trade school. It said he was taking part in a demonstration in Ramallah's central square, which according to reports from the town, was in protest against PLO leader Yasser Arafat and the convening of the PNC. It said he was among four demonstrators inciting others to throw rocks at IDF forces who arrived on the scene to restore order.

When the security forces attempted to arrest them, the IDF statement continued, the four ran off, ignored warning shots and continued

to throw stones at the pursuing troops. It was then that shots were fired directly at them and two were wounded. They were taken to hospital, where Abdullah later died.

In a similar incident on Wednesday, Sharaf Tibi of Birzeit University died of gunshot wounds when IDF troops acted to put down a pro-Arafat demonstration at the university near Ramallah. Four other demonstrators were wounded.

Meanwhile, Tehiya MK Yuval Ne'eman has called on Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin to close the Birzeit and Bethlehem Universities. Ne'eman said yesterday the two institutions should remain closed until it is verified that they are teaching academic subjects only and not the techniques of terror.

Bethlehem University voluntarily closed its doors for the week, in a bid to avert clashes between pro and anti-Arafat students on campus. It is expected to reopen on Monday.

## Goren denies Jews incite at Birzeit

Post Defence Reporter  
The coordinator of activities in the administered territories, Shmuel Goren, yesterday denied having said Jewish artists were the biggest inciters of Arab students in Birzeit University.

Reports on Goren's testimony to a closed meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee on Wednesday quoted him as having said that Israeli singers, dancers and artists, who had come to express

their solidarity with the university were "the most provocative elements."

Goren told reporters yesterday he would not comment on leaks from the committee. However, he insisted he was not aware of any Jews inciting at Birzeit.

He said Israeli Arabs appearing at a festival there last summer had tried to incite the audience through shows, songs and dances but "I don't know of any Jews."

## Eban: 'U.S. should press Israel more'

WASHINGTON (Reuters). — Knesset Member Abba Eban said in an interview, released yesterday the U.S. should press Israel harder to seek peace with Arab nations.

"The U.S. is going to have to push us a bit more to finish this peace process," Eban told *Parade*, a weekly magazine. "That is the greatest gift you Americans can still give to us, and to all the people in this war-weary country."

Eban, who is chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, said Washington should use its economic and diplomatic clout to press for progress toward a peaceful solution to the

region's conflict.

"America has given us all the money and weapons and diplomatic support we could ever hope for," said Eban. "Yet to be frank, I think you have to risk getting us a bit angry at you."

Eban last night told *The Jerusalem Post* that the *Parade* magazine interview had misquoted him on one key phrase.

The interview quoted Eban as saying that "the U.S. is going to have to push us a bit more to finish this peace process." Eban explained that "it is not my custom to use words like 'push' in such a context. I, in fact, said 'help'."

## Shultz, Gromyko to discuss arms control on January 7

WASHINGTON (Reuters). — Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko are to meet in Geneva on January 7 to set the agenda for new arms control negotiations, the White House announced yesterday.

National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane said Washington and Moscow hope to reach mutually acceptable agreements on both nuclear weapons and those planned for outer space.

The announcement that the superpowers had agreed in principle to return to the negotiating table ended a deadlock which began almost exactly a year ago when Moscow broke off talks in Geneva with the U.S. on medium-range missiles.

In a statement last November 24, a day after Moscow declared the Geneva talks at an end, then Soviet president Yuri Andropov blamed the deployment of new U.S. missiles in Europe and said their removal was

a condition for resuming negotiations.

In Moscow yesterday, a senior Soviet official said that the U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers would discuss a broad approach to arms control at the forthcoming meeting.

George Arbatov, the Kremlin's chief adviser on relations with the U.S., was talking to reporters after holding talks with British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock.

Arbatov was asked if the Kremlin had dropped its insistence of the removal of U.S. missiles from Europe to clear the way for the meeting.

"I cannot be so particular. It's not published yet, how an accord on this was taken," he said in English.

"I think the idea is a different one. It's the idea of a broad approach which was proposed by (President) Chernomir... to take a broad approach and not to pick out one issue or two," he said.

## Baram: Ceausescu wants contacts with Peres

Rumanian President Nicolae Ceausescu is interested in forming contacts with prime minister Shimon Peres, and an eventual meeting between the two leaders is possible.

This was reported yesterday at Ben-Gurion Airport by Labour Party Secretary-General Uzi Baram upon his return from a visit to Rumania.

Baram said Ceausescu had told him that during the Likud regime, contacts between Israel and Rumania were few and far between, at least on the political level. However, in Ceausescu's view, such contacts may serve to advance a just solution to the Middle East crisis and therefore should be pursued.

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## As Hussein hosts terror leadership council Arafat bests Syria but bids for accord

By DAVID BERNSTEIN  
Post Middle East Affairs Reporter  
and agencies

PLO leader Yasser Arafat scored his most significant political victory in his on-going struggle with Syria yesterday when he succeeded in bringing together a two-thirds quorum of the 384-member Palestine National Council in Amman, despite all Damascus' efforts to foil the meeting.

But, having proved that he, and not Syrian President Hafez Assad, effectively controls the Palestinian nationalist movement, Arafat held out an olive branch both to Syria and to the Damascus-based radical FLO groups which boycotted the meeting.

He pleaded for rapprochement with the "bickering" PLO factions, and said the Soviet Union was mediating "to correct relations with the brothers in Syria."

The plea was plainly addressed to George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), both of whom

following urgent consultations in Moscow earlier this week — came out yesterday against any attempt by Syria to set up an "alternative PLO."

Both Habash and Hawatmeh — the leaders of the terrorist groups in opposition to Arafat's — have in the past withstood Syrian pressure to



King Hussein and PLO leader Yasser Arafat seen together at the Palestine National Congress in Amman yesterday, as shown on Jordan TV.

(Rahamin Israeli)

break openly with Arafat, and it was their refusal to side with the Fatah rebels in Lebanon last year that enabled Arafat to emerge from his military debacle with his political standing among Palestinians relatively unscathed.

And it is highly likely that they won support in Moscow this week for their stand on, surviving for a united and independent PLO, despite their strong political differences with Arafat.

Arafat, for his part, said nothing in his opening address yesterday that would close the door on rapproche-

ment with the two leaders.

"Dialogue with all factions remains open because the heart of the revolution is very big," he said. He was also careful to reaffirm the PLO's commitment to "armed struggle" against Israel — a cardinal principle of his radical opponents, who have accused him of abandoning this in favour of diplomacy.

"I am not fighting for Palestine alone but for all Arab lands under Israeli occupation, including the Syrian Golan Heights and southern Lebanon," he said.

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## 'Serious violence' not expected on W. Bank

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT  
Post Defence Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Senior defence sources said yesterday they do not anticipate a conflagration in the administered territories despite the disturbances which resulted in the deaths of two demonstrators yesterday and on Wednesday.

The sources said they were surprised by the relative low level of violence but they hastily added they were not certain the zenith had been reached.

The sources said they had received

many warnings of disturbances that would coincide with the Palestine National Council meeting in Amman.

Military government officials have warned members of chambers of commerce and shop owners not to close stores. Teachers and school principals have been told to keep their pupils in check, and preachers in mosques told to watch their words. Mukhtars and heads of families in refugee camps have also been warned.

The authorities also sent secret

lists of some 200 people who should not be allowed to leave for Ben-Gurion Airport and the Jordan River crossing points. They feared these people might try to attend the PNC meeting, or once they were abroad, might be induced to attend even if they had not originally planned to do so.

Some on the list tried to leave the country possibly on private business but they were turned back, it was reported.

The sources said, however, they

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Prime Minister Shimon Peres takes over the wheel of a special vehicle manufactured by Metal Industries in Ashkelon on a tour of the town yesterday.

(IPPA)

## Subsidy budget approved after 'mutiny' in finance panel

By AVI TEMKIN  
Post Economic Reporter  
The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday staged a "mutiny" against acting committee chairman Yitzhak Seyger (Liberals) in order to approve an IS11.5 billion allocation for subsidies of eggs, milk and other basic food commodities.

Seyger opened yesterday's committee meeting by saying he would not include the subsidies issue in the day's agenda, even though the committee had been scheduled to discuss the issue. He said he had promised committee chairman Avraham Shapira that the allocation would not be dealt with until Shapira's return from abroad next week.

Seyger had already prevented

approval of the allocation on Wednesday, when he demanded "consultations of factions." But yesterday he found himself in a minority of one against 11 Knesset Members who angrily demanded that the vote go ahead as planned.

Seyger adjourned the meeting, but Haim Ramon (Labour) organized the other committee members to call for a second meeting 90 minutes later, as allowed for by committee procedural regulations.

In the second meeting, the committee members decided that Ramon would serve as chairman in place of Seyger. After a few minutes the subsidies allocation was approved.

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WEEKLY REVIEW

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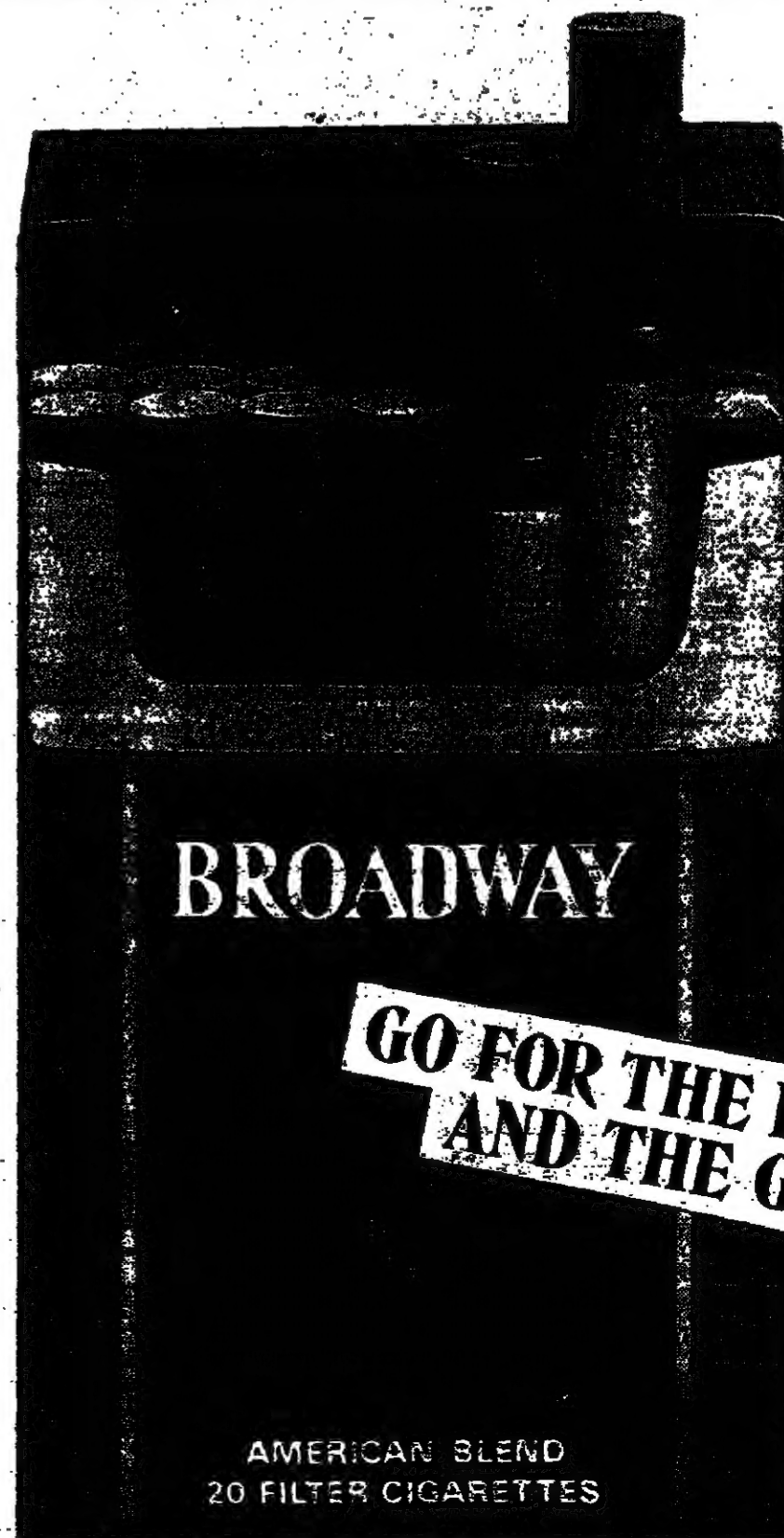
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NEWS BACKGROUND/Aaron Sittner

## Sales rise with freeze, Jlem shopkeepers say

If retail sales are down because of the price freeze — as the Ministry of Industry and Trade says — then Jerusalem shopkeepers, their cash registers happily jingling, know nothing about it.

Last week, the ministry's price freeze "czar," David Brodet, said that the first evidence of the effectiveness of the freeze was the drop in consumers' purchases, leading economic planners to believe that "a real stabilization in prices can be expected by the time the freeze ends (February 1)."

But in conversations with two leading retailing executives in the capital yesterday, *The Jerusalem Post* was told that business was quite good. What is more, sales have been going up since November 4. That was the day when the price freeze, an integral element of the three-way government-Histadrut-manufacturers package deal, went into effect.

"What sales slump?" asked Tuvia Raviv, general manager of Hamashbir Lazarchan, Jerusalem's biggest department store. "On the contrary! Things are very lively here now. Turnover is sharply higher, and unrelated to the number of people coming into the store. In other words, people are still spending money on things they want."

Raviv hastened to note that "I cannot claim to speak for the entire chain, but only for this branch in Jerusalem."

However, in a country the size of Israel, no significant variations occur in sales patterns from one city to the other.

The Jerusalem Hamashbir Lazarchan is the second largest in the chain, trailing only the flagship store in Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Centre. Though most *mitzvaim* (special sales promotion campaigns) are chain-wide, each branch manager has the authority to stage local *mitzvaim* as well.

Raviv said: "There is not a single day in the whole year without some kind of sale going on here. Sometimes it's for a whole month; sometimes, it's a week-long affair and quite often we run our own daily specials, where alerts shoppers can really profit."

So good has business been since the price freeze began that three new departments have been opened — something that could never have happened if the freeze had put a brake on consumer spending.

The new departments are a young men's sportswear boutique, a T-shirt and printing facility and a fancy costume jewellery section. Soon to open are a stuffed animal department for the kiddies as well as another innovation which Raviv refuses to name as yet. In addition, the carpet department, closed several years ago, has now re-opened to meet demand.

The failure of the price freeze to slow retail sales was also noted by Abraham Birnbaum, secretary of

the Jerusalem Merchants Association. This organization represents the city's small and medium-sized shops.

He told *The Post* "Sales so far this month are well ahead of October freeze or no freeze. The only exceptions are high-priced large electrical goods and furniture."

"The furniture sector is almost lifeless. People come in, view the samples and mark down the prices. Then, as they leave, they tell the dealer something like, 'We like that piece, and may return to buy it towards the end of January. Meanwhile, we will leave the money in the bank where it earns interest.'"

"If there was a sales slump," Birnbaum continued, "it occurred in early October. Then, people were waiting for the new government to do something about prices."

As for the pick-up in retail sales after the freeze went into effect, Birnbaum admits that economic logic would dictate a slowdown, as people cease running after goods in the fear that "prices will rise tomorrow." He attributes at least some of the lively traffic in the shops to the rains and cold weather.

Besides clothing and shoe shops, pharmacies are doing a landslide business in imported preparations. "Persons accustomed to a certain *salve* or *capsule* for their health are afraid their chemist will run out of stock, and then they will be out of luck," Birnbaum said.

Birnbaum added: "Lots is being written about the price freeze. But is there really such a thing? Almost every day, one or more of our members comes in to report that his supplier, some small or medium-sized manufacturer has sent him a new price list, as if the November 4 freeze order was a total myth."

"They ask me what to do, and all I can advise them is to comply with the law and refrain from raising prices above their levels of November 2. Then they tell me that the supplier has told them, 'If you want the goods, pay the new price. If not, leave it.'"

"Of course, the retailer could go to the Ministry of Industry and Trade and report him. But that would mean the end of his business relationship with the supplier and the end of a vital source of supply."

"As a result, unfortunately, many retailers take a real risk and raise their prices to the consumer. Yes, that's why I keep asking, is there really a price freeze?"

Birnbaum insists that too much effort is being made to check prices at shops and not enough to ensure that manufacturers hold the line.

SADAT. — The Haifa municipality is to put up a commemorative tablet in Plumer Square to mark the visit to Haifa of the late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat in September 1979 and the establishment of peace with Egypt.

## Bar-Lev ordered to respond to Kahane

The High Court of Justice yesterday issued an order nisi giving Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev and Inspector-General Aryeh Ivzan 45 days to explain why they would not allow Knesset Member Meir Kahane (Kach) to visit the Arab village of Taiba.

Kahane said the visit was intended to facilitate "discussion with local Arabs and with Jewish women residents of Taiba who have married Arabs about mixed marriages and their implications from a Jewish and national point of view."

Kahane filed the petition against the police after being informed that while MKs do not require police permission to visit public places, the police see it as their duty to prevent instances where there is reasonable chance of human life being endangered and of disturbances of the peace.

The court's ruling means that the state attorney's office reply to the petition has been deemed insufficient by the court consisting of Justices Aharon Barak, Moshe Bejsky and Avraham Harish.

Kahane argued in his petition that police attempts to curtail his free passage for fear residents may disrupt the peace when he comes are a way of giving a prize to those who plan to violate the law while punishing those who are acting within it.

Kahane's counsel, attorney Meir Schechter, argued that an MK, whose free passage rights are greater than other citizens, should not have to "sneak around like a thief when doing his parliamentary work."

## Over 1,000 young Ashkelon residents lack work

ASHKELON. — Mayor Eli Dayan yesterday told Prime Minister Shimon Peres that more than a thousand young residents of this town who have completed their military service are unemployed.

Peres, who was making a tour of Ashkelon, said the government had begun to deal with the problem of joblessness, especially in outlying areas where it is most acute.

He added that he expects the monthly inflation rate to go down to half its present rate by the end of the price freeze.

At the Ashot metal plant, which produces mainly for the defence industry, Peres recalled that the plant once produced cars and declared that it should do so again.

"There is a market here, especially when Israelis are buying cars at the rate of 60,000 to 80,000 a year," Peres said.

## Shamir to visit Panama, Venezuela next month

Jerusalem Post Reporter Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir is to make an official visit to Panama between December 10-12 and another to Venezuela between December 12-14, the Foreign Ministry spokesman has announced.

Shamir was invited by the presidents and foreign ministers of the two Latin-American countries.

## Bundesstag president to visit next year

Jerusalem Post Correspondent BONN. — Philip Jenninger, the newly elected President of the Bundesstag has accepted an invitation to visit Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel in Israel early next year. It was announced by the German and Israeli Friendship Societies after a meeting here.

Jenninger said he would act to strengthen the relationship between the Bundesstag and the Knesset.

Political circles in Bonn expressed the opinion that Jenninger's attitude towards Israel and the Jews was a positive one, but that his position within the Christian Democratic Party was less prominent than that of his predecessor Rainer Barzel.

## Merchant fined

HAIFA (Itim). — A local merchant of religious articles was fined 1550,000 in the Magistrates Court here yesterday for failing to display prices.

The defendant, Yitzhak Shwartz of Kiryat Ata, said that he does not read newspapers and did not know about the law requiring prices to be displayed.

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NEWS BACKGROUND/David Rudge

## 4 months later, report on boy's death due

HAIFA. — Nearly four months after a nine-year-old boy drowned in a well beneath a derelict building in the city's rundown Wadi Salib quarter, the municipality's inquiry commission is ready to publish its findings.

The commission is charged both with finding who is responsible for the accident and recommending how to prevent such accidents in the future.

Deputy Mayor Moshe Livneh, who heads the inquiry, said the report and recommendations will be submitted to Mayor Aryeh Gurel today.

Livneh heads the city council's planning and building committee and is a professor of civil engineering at the Technion.

He blamed technical problems, including the absence abroad at different times of two commission members, for the delay in finalizing the report.

The death of Rabiya Makhlof on August 1 caused a storm of protest

by residents of Wadi Salib. They demanded immediate action to seal other derelict buildings in the quarter to prevent any further tragedies.

The boy's father filed a civil suit for damages against the municipality and the Israel Lands Authority, which owns the land on which the building stands. The police, meanwhile, launched an investigation into possible negligence on the part of the owners — once it could be established who the owners were. Results of the police inquiry have not been made public.

The residents charged that the building on Rehov Harav Marcus in which Makhlof died had not been properly sealed. He had been playing on the first floor when he fell into a shaft leading directly into the underground pit.

They pointed out that there were several similarly rundown buildings with underground wells, in the area and said urgent action was needed to prevent adventurous youngsters from getting into them. They called,

in vain, for all the derelict buildings to be demolished.

The municipality, which wants to retain some of the buildings as part of its long-term plan to turn Wadi Salib into an artists' quarter, maintained that the Shikmona slum clearance company was responsible for sealing the abandoned premises.

Shikmona replied that city hall had rejected its request for permission to demolish 34 buildings considered to be dangerous.

The Israel Lands Authority said simply that it was responsible for the land but not the buildings.

Responding to these accusations and counter-accusations, Gurel decided to establish the municipal inquiry commission.

The residents, backed by city councillor Tzahi Karbasi, now hope that apart from resolving the question of responsibility, the commission's recommendations for preventing further tragedies will be acted upon with a greater sense of urgency than has ever been shown so far.

## Moda'i to hoteliers: Get your house in order

By HAIM SHAPIRO Jerusalem Post Reporter

Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i yesterday expressed disappointment that the tourism industry had failed to reach its full potential, despite Israel's obvious attractions which, in addition to the sun, includes Jerusalem and the fact this is the only Jewish state in the world.

Moda'i was speaking at the annual Israel Hotel Association convention at Jerusalem's Ramada Renaissance Hotel.

As to their claims that the hotels have an average occupancy of only 50 per cent, Moda'i asked the hoteliers how they could build, without seeing to it that they would also fill their establishments.

Implying that the industry could forget about any government assistance in marketing, he told them to

"forget about the government when it comes to business problems."

Morris Cassouto, who was re-elected association president earlier in the day, levelled a sharp attack at Tourism Minister Avraham Shafir. He said that Shafir's charges that Israeli hotels were dirty and expensive had caused great harm to the tourism industry.

"It is inconceivable that hoteliers read in the newspapers that their star grading was being lowered, without the hotels themselves getting any prior notification or warning," Cassouto added.

In his address, Shafir called for a room tax, which would be used by the regional tourism associations. He also said there would be no new investment in tourism development this year.

## TA high school may expel girl, 17, for being married

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL Jerusalem Post Reporter

Can a young woman be both wife and pupil? The Education Ministry's division of religious education is to decide in a few days whether a 17-year-old high school pupil may be expelled because she marries.

Dana Akler, a pupil at the Tel Aviv Zeitlin religious high school for girls, will be 17 next month and has announced her intention of marrying her fiancé who is also her cousin, 11 years her senior.

Akler has the blessing of her mother who also married young but later divorced, and of Rabbi Avraham Yafet with whom they have consulted.

But the principal of the Zeitlin school, Aviezer Weiss, has told Akler that if she marries she will have to leave school. Akler's mother says that her daughter is "unusually mature for her age."

Akler says that since the matter of her impending marriage became known, the school "has turned her life into a nightmare." Without consulting her mother, it has insisted that she attend two-hour sessions

daily with the school adviser, and the teachers have been most unsympathetic.

According to Akler, teachers have hinted that "there must be a reason to marry so young," and Akler interprets this to mean they think she may be pregnant. "This is an insult to a religious girl," she said.

Another teacher asked: "How on earth do you expect a single teacher to relate to a married pupil? Either you're a pupil or a man's wife."

Principal Weiss declined to comment on the case. But a senior official of the division of religious education told *The Jerusalem Post* there are few precedents for this situation and that he, and his committee, will judge the matter on its own merits.

The official said that there are two things to be considered, the good of the school and the good of the pupil.

While teen-age marriages are common in many countries, and in the U.S. often both husband and wife continue their high school studies, in Israel they are rare. There have been some cases in secular schools which aroused no particular comment.

## Shapira-Libai named women's status adviser

Jerusalem Post Staff

Dr. Nitza Shapira-Libai, who had served as the prime minister's adviser on the status of women from March 1980 to October 1983, has been reappointed to the post by Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Her term is to begin on December 15.

Shapira-Libai, who holds a law degree from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a Ph.D. in comparative law from the University of Chicago, was nudged out of her position in 1983 by then minister without portfolio Sara Doron.

She was originally appointed to the post by the late Yigael Yadin when he was deputy prime minister. Shapira-Libai will replace attorney Ethna Simha, who has held the post since November 1983, and had worked closely with Sara Doron, rather than in the Prime Minister's office.

## Acre plants 7 trees for Bundestag member

ACRE (Itim). — Seven trees were planted here yesterday in honour of Erich Wolfman, a member of the West German Bundestag, for opposing the German sale of arms to Saudi Arabia.

## THE TASTE OF PASSOVER COOKING COMPETITION

Sheraton Israel and The Jerusalem Post announce a great new cooking contest — THE TASTE OF PASSOVER. Cook up a storm for Passover, and you could be a winner!

You may enter as many recipes as you wish, but all must be kosher le'Pesach. Entries will be accepted until Jan. 22, 1985. Twelve finalists will be selected from the submissions, six of them dairy dishes (which will be judged at the Tel Aviv Sheraton), and six meat dishes (judged at the King Solomon Sheraton in Jerusalem.)

Finalists will be notified by written invitation three weeks before the competition, which will take place at the participating Sheraton hotels on March 11, 1985. All ingredients, utensils and facilities will be supplied for the preparation of the final entries, and a panel of judges will be on hand for tasting and testing.

ALL RECIPES APPROVED BY THE SHERATON CHEFS WILL BE COMPILED INTO A PASSOVER COOKBOOK, FOR DISTRIBUTION IN ISRAEL AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

Recipes must be neatly printed or typed with the entrant's name, address and telephone number in the top right-hand corner, along with the words "MEAT DISH" or "DAIRY DISH." Any recipe that is not kosher for Passover will be disqualified.

Each hotel will award three prizes: First prize: Weekend for Two (two nights, half-board) Second prize: Dinner for Two Third prize: Lunch for Two. Winners in the Dairy category claim their prizes at the Tel Aviv Sheraton, Meat recipe winners at the King Solomon Sheraton.

Employees (and their families) of Sheraton Israel and The Jerusalem Post are ineligible for the contest.

Send your recipes to: The Taste of Passover, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

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## Volunteer for IDF, Moshe Levy tells Israeli Arabs

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The chief of general staff yesterday evening called on Israeli Arabs to volunteer for the IDF and follow the example of the many Druse, Beduin, Circassians and Christians already serving.

Speaking at a "salute to the volunteer servicemen" get-together at Kibbutz Yagur, Rav-Aluf Moshe Levy said there are problems involved in extending compulsory military service to other communities, in addition to the Druse who are now conscripted.

"But I feel that conditions are right for voluntary enlistment and I have no doubt that we shall achieve full equality in this field too," he said.

Levy noted that sharing the burden of defence and security links all the country's communities.

President Chaim Herzog, Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin sent greetings to the meeting.

The get-together, attended by 2,000 Druse and Arab servicemen, ex-soldiers and bereaved parents, was sponsored by the Movement for a Better Israel. Certificates of merit were awarded to more than a dozen of the men, some of them posthumously, from private to colonel, who had distinguished themselves in acts of bravery.

## Kibbutz gets 'livestock', 220 African crocodiles

GAN SHIMUEL (Itim). — A shipment of 220 crocodiles bought by this Sharon area kibbutz arrived yesterday at Ben-Gurion Airport on a Boeing 767 from Cairo. The kibbutz intends to set up a crocodile farm in order to process and export the skins.

The crocodiles were bought in Zimbabwe and brought to Egypt, where their flight to Israel aboard an El Al plane was arranged by a representative of the kibbutz. The crocodiles were packed in large crates; the total shipment weighed 8.5 tons.

"This will not be a tourist attraction, and we have no interest in turning it into an exhibit," kibbutz members said of their new "livestock."

## Ethiopian Jews take adult education courses

More than 100 Jews from Ethiopia this week began studying in adult education classes sponsored by the Education Ministry. The courses are being held in community centres in Acre, Ashkelon, Kiryat Gat and in the Shaar Hanegev College.

The subjects being taught are improvement of reading and writing, Bible, citizenship, and history.

## New Jane's yearbook:

## Israel is selling artillery in Far East, ammo in Europe

LONDON (AP). — Israel is now a major supplier of artillery to Central American and Far East countries, and sells large-calibre ammunition to Switzerland and West Germany, according to a Jane's yearbook published yesterday.

The editor of *Jane's Armour and Artillery*, Christopher Foss, also notes that Israel has sold fighter planes to Latin American countries.

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for Soviet-supplied armour, and is expected soon to unveil a mobile 23-mm anti-aircraft gun and an armoured personnel carrier to replace Soviet equipment.

South Africa is now virtually self-sufficient in arms production, and

sells armoured vehicles, combat-proven in Angola, to Morocco, the editor says.

South Africa now seeks to sell its 155-mm howitzers to Latin American and Middle Eastern states, he adds.

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## NEWS BACKGROUND/Aaron Sittner

## Sales rise with freeze, Jlem shopkeepers say

If retail sales are down because of the price freeze — as the Ministry of Industry and Trade says — then Jerusalem shopkeepers, their cash registers happily jingling, know nothing about it.

Last week, the ministry's price freeze "czar," David Brodet, said that the first evidence of the effectiveness of the freeze was the drop in consumers' purchases, leading economic planners to believe that "a real stabilization in prices can be expected by the time the freeze ends (February 1)."

But in conversations with two leading retailing executives in the capital yesterday, *The Jerusalem Post* was told that business was quite good. What is more, sales have been going up since November 4. That was the day when the price freeze, an integral element of the three-way government-Histadrut-manufacturers package deal, went into effect.

"What sales slump?" asked Tuvia Raviv, general manager of Hamashbir Lazarchan, Jerusalem's biggest department store. "On the contrary! Things are very lively here now. Turnover is sharply higher, and unrelated to the number of people coming into the store. In other words, people are still spending money on things they want."

Raviv hastened to note that "I cannot claim to speak for the entire chain, but only for this branch in Jerusalem."

However, in a country the size of Israel, no significant variations occur in sales patterns from one city to the other.

The Jerusalem Hamashbir Lazarchan is the second largest in the chain, trailing only the flagship store in Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Centre. Though most *mitzvaim* (special sales promotion campaigns) are chain-wide, each branch manager has the authority to stage local *mitzvaim* as well.

Raviv said: "There is not a single day in the whole year without some kind of sale going on here. Sometimes it's for a whole month; sometimes, it's a week-long affair and quite often we run our own daily specials, where alerts shoppers can really profit."

So good has business been since the price freeze began that three new departments have been opened — something that could never have happened if the freeze had put a brake on consumer spending.

The new departments are a young men's sportswear boutique, a T-shirt and printing facility and a fancy costume jewellery section. Soon to open are a stuffed animal department for the kiddies as well as another innovation which Raviv refuses to name as yet. In addition, the carpet department, closed several years ago, has now re-opened to meet demand.

The failure of the price freeze to slow retail sales was also noted by Avraham Birnbaum, secretary of

the Jerusalem Merchants Association. This organization represents the city's small and medium-sized shops.

He told *The Post* "Sales so far this month are well ahead of October freeze or no freeze. The only exceptions are high-priced large electrical goods and furniture."

"The furniture sector is almost lifeless. People come in, view the samples and mark down the prices. Then, as they leave, they tell the dealer something like, 'We like that piece, and may return to buy it towards the end of January. Meanwhile, we will leave the money in the bank where it earns interest.'"

"If there was a sales slump," Birnbaum continued, "it occurred in early October. Then, people were waiting for the new government to do something about prices."

As for the pick-up in retail sales after the freeze went into effect, Birnbaum admits that economic logic would dictate a slowdown, as people cease running after goods in the fear that "prices will rise tomorrow." He attributes at least some of the lively traffic in the shops to the rains and cold weather.

Besides clothing and shoe shops, pharmacies are doing a landslide business in imported preparations. "Persons accustomed to a certain saline or capsule for their health are afraid their chemist will run out of stock, and then they will be out of luck," Birnbaum said.

Birnbaum added: "Lots is being written about the price freeze. But is there really such a thing? Almost every day, one or more of our members comes in to report that his supplier, some small or medium-sized manufacturer has sent him a new price list, as if the November 4 freeze order was a total myth."

"They ask me what to do, and all I can advise them is to comply with the law and refrain from raising prices above their levels of November 2. Then they tell me that the supplier has told them, 'If you want the goods, pay the new price. If not, leave it.'"

"Of course, the retailer could go to the Ministry of Industry and Trade and report him. But that would mean the end of his business relationship with the supplier and the end of a vital source of supply."

"As a result, unfortunately, many retailers take a real risk and raise their prices to the consumer. Yes, that's why I keep asking, is there really a price freeze?"

Birnbaum insists that too much effort is being made to check prices, at shops and not enough to ensure that manufacturers hold the line.

SADAT. — The Haifa municipality is to put up a commemorative tablet in Plumer Square to mark the visit to Haifa of the late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat in September 1979 and the establishment of peace with Egypt.

## Bar-Lev ordered to respond to Kahane

The High Court of Justice yesterday issued an order nisi giving Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev and Inspector-General Aryeh Ivitzan 45 days to explain why they would not allow Knesset Member Meir Kahane (Kach) to visit the Arab village of Taiba.

Kahane said the visit was intended to facilitate "discussion with local Arabs and with Jewish women residents of Taiba who have married Arabs about mixed marriages and their implications from a Jewish and national point of view."

Kahane filed the petition against the police after being informed that while MKs do not require police permission to visit public places, the police see it as their duty to prevent instances where there is reasonable chance of human life being endangered and of disturbances of the peace.

The court's ruling means that the state attorney's office reply to the petition has been deemed insufficient by the court consisting of Justices Aharon Barak, Moshe Bejsky and Avraham Haim.

Kahane argued in his petition that police attempts to curtail his free passage for fear residents may disrupt the peace when he comes are a way of giving a prize to those who plan to violate the law while punishing those who are acting within it.

Kahane's counsel, attorney Meir Schechter, argued that an MK, whose free passage rights are greater than other citizens, should not have to "sneak around like a thief when doing his parliamentary work."

## Over 1,000 young Ashkelon residents lack work

Jerusalem Post Reporter

ASHKELON. — Mayor Eli Dayan yesterday told Prime Minister Shimon Peres that more than a thousand young residents of this town who have completed their military service are unemployed.

Peres, who was making a tour of Ashkelon, said the government had begun to deal with the problem of joblessness, especially in outlying areas where it is most acute.

He added that he expects the monthly inflation rate to go down to half its present rate by the end of the price freeze.

At the Ashor metal plant, which produces mainly for the defence industry, Peres recalled that the plant once produced cars and declared that it should do so again.

"There is a market here, especially when Israelis are buying cars at the rate of 60,000 to 80,000 a year," Peres said.

## Shamir to visit Panama, Venezuela next month

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir is to make an official visit to Panama between December 10-12 and another to Venezuela between December 12-14, the Foreign Ministry spokesman has announced.

Shamir was invited by the presidents and foreign ministers of the two Latin-American countries.

## Bundestag president to visit next year

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

BONN. — Philip Jenninger, the newly elected President of the Bundestag has accepted an invitation to visit Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel in Israel early next year, it was announced by the German and Israeli Friendship Societies after a meeting here.

Jenninger said he would act to strengthen the relationship between the Bundestag and the Knesset.

Political circles in Bonn expressed the opinion that Jenninger's attitude towards Israel and the Jews was a positive one, but, that his position within the Christian Democratic Party was less prominent than that of his predecessor Rainer Barzel.

## Merchant fined

HAIFA (Itim). — A local merchant of religious articles was fined IS\$9,000 in the Magistrates Court here yesterday for failing to display prices.

The defendant, Yitzhak Shwartz of Kiryat Ata, said that he does not read newspapers and did not know about the law requiring prices to be displayed.

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## NEWS BACKGROUND/David Rudge

## 4 months later, report on boy's death due

HAIFA. — Nearly four months after a nine-year-old boy drowned in a well beneath a derelict building in the city's rundown Wadi Salib quarter, the municipality's inquiry commission is ready to publish its findings.

The commission is charged both with finding who is responsible for the accident and recommending how to prevent such accidents in the future.

Deputy Mayor Moshe Livneh, who heads the inquiry, said the report and recommendations will be submitted to Mayor Arye Gurel today.

Livneh heads the city council's planning and building committee and is a professor of civil engineering at the Technion.

He blamed technical problems, including the absence abroad at different times of two commission members, for the delay in finalizing the report.

The death of Rabiya Makhlof on August 1 caused a storm of protest

by residents of Wadi Salib. They demanded immediate action to seal other derelict buildings in the quarter to prevent any further tragedies.

The boy's father filed a civil suit for damages against the municipality and the Israel Lands Authority, which owns the land on which the building stands. The police, meanwhile, launched an investigation into possible negligence on the part of the owners — once it could be established who the owners were. Results of the police inquiry have not been made public.

The residents charged that the building on Rehov Harav Marcus in which Makhlof died had not been properly sealed. He had been playing on the first floor when he fell into a shaft leading directly into the underground pit.

They pointed out that there were several similarly rundown buildings, with underground wells, in the area and said urgent action was needed to prevent adventurous youngsters from getting into them. They called

in vain, for all the derelict buildings to be demolished.

The municipality, which wants to retain some of the buildings as part of its long-term plan to turn Wadi Salib into an artists quarter, maintained that the Shikmona slum clearance company was responsible for sealing the abandoned premises.

Shikmona replied that city hall had rejected its request for permission to demolish 34 buildings considered to be dangerous.

The Israel Lands Authority said simply that it was responsible for the land but not the buildings.

Responding to these accusations and counter-accusations, Gurel decided to establish the municipal inquiry commission.

The residents, backed by city councillor Tzahi Karbabi, now hope that apart from resolving the question of responsibility, the commission's recommendations for preventing further tragedies will be acted upon with a greater sense of urgency than has ever been shown so far.

## Moda'i to hoteliers: Get your house in order

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i yesterday expressed disappointment that the tourism industry had failed to reach its full potential, despite Israel's obvious attractions which, in addition to the sun, includes Jerusalem and the fact this is the only Jewish state in the world.

Moda'i was speaking at the annual Israel Hotel Association convention at Jerusalem's Ramada Renaissance Hotel.

As to their claims that the hotels have an average occupancy of only 50 per cent, Moda'i asked the hoteliers how they could build, without seeing it that they would also fill their establishments.

Implying that the industry could forget about any government assistance in marketing, he told them to

"forget about the government when it comes to business problems."

Morris Cassouto, who was re-elected association president earlier in the day, levelled a sharp attack at Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir. He said that Sharir's charges that Israeli hotels were dirty and expensive had caused great harm to the tourism industry.

"It is inconceivable that hoteliers read in the newspapers that their star grading was being lowered, without the hotels themselves getting any prior notification or warning," Cassouto added.

In his address, Sharir called for a room tax, which would be used by the regional tourism associations. He also said there would be no new investment in tourism development this year.

## TA high school may expel girl, 17, for being married

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Can a young woman be both wife and pupil? The Education Ministry's division of religious education is to decide in a few days whether a 17-year-old high school pupil may be expelled because she marries.

Dana Akler, a pupil at the Tel Aviv Zeitlin religious high school for girls, will be 17 next month and has announced her intention of marrying her fiancé who is also her cousin, 11 years her senior.

Akler has the blessing of her mother who also married young but later divorced, and of Rabbi Avraham Yafet with whom they have consulted.

But the principal of the Zeitlin school, Aviezer Weiss, has told Akler that if she marries she will have to leave school. Akler's mother says that her daughter is "unusually mature for her age."

Akler says that since the matter of her impending marriage became known, the school "has turned her life into a nightmare." Without consulting her mother, it has insisted that she attend two-hour sessions

daily with the school adviser, and the teachers have been most unsympathetic.

According to Akler, teachers have hinted that "there must be a reason to marry so young," and Akler interprets this to mean they think she may be pregnant. "This is an insult to a religious girl," she said.

Another teacher asked: "How on earth do you expect a single teacher to relate to a married pupil? Either you're a pupil or a man's wife."

Principal Weiss declined to comment on the case. But a senior official of the division of religious education told *The Jerusalem Post* there are few precedents for this situation and that he and his committee will judge the matter on its own merits.

The official said that there are two things to be considered, the good of the school and the good of the pupil. While teen-age marriages are common in many countries, and in the U.S. often both husband and wife continue their high school studies, in Israel they are rare. There have been some cases in secular schools which aroused no particular comment.

## Shapira-Libai named women's status adviser

Jerusalem Post Staff

Dr. Nitzza Shapira-Libai, who had served as the prime minister's adviser on the status of women from March 1980 to October 1983, has been reappointed to the post by Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Her term is to begin on December 15.

Shapira-Libai, who holds a law degree from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a Ph.D. in comparative law from the University of Chicago, was nudged out of her position in 1983 by then minister without portfolio Sara Doron.

She was originally appointed to the post by the late Yigael Yadin when he was deputy prime minister. Shapira-Libai will replace attorney Ethia Simha, who has held the post since November 1983, and had worked closely with Sara Doron, rather than in the Prime Minister's office.

## Acre plants 7 trees for Bundestag member

ACRE (Itim). — Seven trees were planted here yesterday in honour of Erich Wolfram, a member of the West German Bundestag, for opposing the German sale of arms to Saudi Arabia.

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## 'Volunteer for IDF,' Moshe Levy tells Israeli Arabs

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The chief of general staff yesterday evening called on Israeli Arabs to volunteer for the IDF and follow the example of the many Druse, Beduin, Circassians and Christians already serving.

Speaking at a "salute to the volunteer servicemen" get-together at Kibbutz Yagur, Rav-Aluf Moshe Levy said there are problems involved in extending compulsory military service to other communities, in addition to the Druse who are now conscripted.

"But I feel that conditions are right for voluntary enlistment and I have no doubt that we shall achieve full equality in this field too," he said.

Levy noted that sharing the burden of defence and security links all the country's communities.

President Chaim Herzog, Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin sent greetings to the meeting.

The get-together, attended by 2,000 Druse and Arab servicemen, ex-soldiers and bereaved parents, was sponsored by the Movement for a Better Israel. Certificates of merit were awarded to more than a dozen of the men, some of them posthumously, from private to colonel, who had distinguished themselves in acts of bravery.

## Kibbutz gets 'livestock', 220 African crocodiles

GAN SHMUEL (Itim). — A shipment of 220 crocodiles bought by this Sharon area kibbutz arrived yesterday at Ben-Gurion Airport on a Boeing 767 from Cairo. The kibbutz intends to set up a crocodile farm in order to process and export the skins.

The crocodiles were bought in Zimbabwe and brought to Egypt, where their flight to Israel aboard an El Al plane was arranged by a representative of the kibbutz. The crocodiles were packed in large crates; the total shipment weighed 8.5 tons.

"This will not be a tourist attraction, and we have no interest in turning it into an exhibit," kibbutz members said of their new "livestock."

## Ethiopian Jews take adult education courses

More than 100 Jews from Ethiopia this week began studying in adult education classes sponsored by the Education Ministry. The courses are being held in community centres in Acre, Ashkelon, Kiryat Gat and in the Shaar Haneguv College.

The subjects being taught are improvement of reading and writing, Bible, citizenship, and history.

## "THE TASTE OF PASSOVER" COOKING COMPETITION

Sheraton Israel and The Jerusalem Post announce a great new cooking contest — THE TASTE OF PASSOVER. Cook up a storm for Passover, and you could be a winner!

You may enter as many recipes as you wish, but all must be kosher le-Pesach. Entries will be accepted until Jan. 22, 1985. Twelve finalists will be selected from the submissions, six of them dairy dishes (which will be judged at the Tel Aviv Sheraton), and six meat dishes (judged at the King Solomon Sheraton in Jerusalem.)

Finalists will be notified by written invitation three weeks before the competition, which will take place at the participating Sheraton hotels on March 11, 1985. All ingredients, utensils and facilities will be supplied for the preparation of the final entries, and a panel of judges will be on hand for tasting and testing.

ALL RECIPES APPROVED BY THE SHERATON CHEFS WILL BE COMPILED INTO A PASSOVER COOKBOOK, FOR DISTRIBUTION IN ISRAEL AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

Recipes must be neatly printed or typed with the entrant's name, address and telephone number in the top right-hand corner, along with the words "MEAT DISH" or "DAIRY DISH." Any recipe that is not kosher for Passover will be disqualified.

Each hotel will award three prizes:  
First prize: Weekend for Two (two nights, half-board)  
Second prize: Dinner for Two  
Third prize: Lunch for Two.  
Winners in the Dairy category claim their prizes at the Tel Aviv Sheraton, Meat recipe winners at the King Solomon Sheraton.

Employees (and their families) of Sheraton Israel and The Jerusalem Post are ineligible for the contest.

Send your recipes to: The Taste of Passover, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

THE JERUSALEM POST Sheraton Hotels

## New Jane's yearbook:

## Israel is selling artillery in Far East, ammo in Europe

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Kfar Sava — 26, Tchernichovski St. • Netania — 25, Weizmann St.  
• Herzlia 78, Sokolov St. Rehovot — 192, Herzl St.  
• Petah Tikva — 18, Moholover St. • Holon — 47, Sokolov St.  
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## Ceausescu re-elected party chief

BUCHAREST (Reuters). - Veteran Rumanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu last night was re-elected Communist party chief for another five-year term, setting the seal on a course of economic austerity and Communist orthodoxy for his country.

Ceausescu, 66, party leader since 1965, was unanimously re-elected general secretary of Rumania's 3.4 million Communists at a closed session of the party's congress, senior party official Manea Manescu said in a statement to the congress.

Ceausescu's re-election climaxed officially sponsored euphoria in the state-controlled media and from congress delegates in which he has

been described in terms such as "The Dearest Son of the Rumanian Nation" and "The Builder of Modern Rumania."

Ceausescu's report last Monday to the opening of the congress, which was formally adopted yesterday by the 3,100 delegates, appeared to suggest that Rumanian policy would maintain an unwavering course until 1990.

Western diplomats say his report outlined continued economic austerity and ideological orthodoxy.

Diplomats said that from study of Ceausescu's foreign policy comments on Monday there was no reason to foresee change in the

course of relative independence which Rumania has steered in the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact and which has won him favour in the West.

He announced on Monday that Rumania would agree to extend its membership of the Warsaw Pact when it comes up for renewal next year after 30 years.

But he said Rumania was still committed to dismantling both the pact and its western counterpart, Nato.

On internal policy, Ceausescu, a Communist since teen-age, urged party organs to play a bigger role in society and called for promotion of Communist values in cultural life.

## Poland blames West Germans for collapse of Genscher trip

WARSAW (Reuters). - Poland has blamed West Germany for the collapse of a visit by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and said it hopes he will come to Warsaw later.

The Polish Foreign Ministry disclosed why conditions had been set for the visit and said it was disappointed by Bonn's "sudden and unconvincing explanation" for rejecting them.

Genscher postponed a three-day visit to Poland a few hours before he was to arrive on Wednesday.

The West German government was ruffled by a warning to Genscher not to lay a wreath on the grave of murdered priest Jerzy Popielusko, a supporter of the banned Solidarity free trade union.

Polish authorities also refused to let Genscher lay another wreath at a German military cemetery or to admit with him a journalist it accuses of being anti-Polish.

The postponement apparently damaged Polish hopes of further improving relations with the West after three years isolation over the use of martial law to curb Solidarity.

Explaining the Polish conditions for Genscher's visit, Foreign Ministry official Wladyslaw Kijaczynski denied that Polish government spokesman Jerzy Urban had been admonishing Genscher when he indicated that laying a wreath at Popielusko's grave would cause displeasure.

Kijaczynski stressed Polish sensitivity to the memory of six million Poles who died under Nazi occupation.

He blamed "Cold War forces" in the West for trying to sabotage Genscher's visit.

Meanwhile, West Germany has pledged to continue its efforts to improve relations with eastern Europe despite the abrupt cancellation of the Genscher trip.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl said that West Germany would continue to try to improve relations with the eastern bloc despite the postponement.

"The road of reconciliation is the only right one," he told a news conference on Wednesday in Vienna.

## Basques strike over murder of politician

BILBAO, Spain (Reuters). - Basques yesterday unanimously backed a general strike over Tuesday's murder of a separatist leader for which ETA guerrillas later took revenge by gravely wounding a retired Spanish army general in Madrid.

Local officials said industry, commerce and transport were paralyzed by the stoppage, called by all political parties and trade unions.

Heavy police reinforcements were deployed in major cities and scattered demonstrations by small groups of youths were quickly dispersed. Several people were arrested.

Police said a bomb wrecked a bar in central Bilbao early yesterday and

four buses were burned by demonstrators in the suburb of Algorta. Barricades blocked some access roads.

The strike was called in response to the murder of Santiago Brouard, leader of ETA's political arm Herri Batasuna (Popular Unity).

ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) responded to Brouard's murder at the hands of an anti-guerrilla death squad by gunning down retired general Luis Roson, 66, and his military driver on Wednesday.

ETA claimed responsibility for the shooting in a communique published in the Basque press yesterday in which it also blamed Spanish authorities for Brouard's death.

## Man keeps woman in box for 7 years

RED BLUFF, California (Reuters). - A 27-year-old woman has told authorities she was held captive by a man for seven years during which she was blindfolded, handcuffed and kept in a locked box, police said.

The man, 31, was arrested on Sunday and is being held on multiple charges of kidnapping and rape.

The woman said that in 1977 a man picked her up while she was hitchhiking, threatened her with a knife and took her to his home in this north California town.

"She was placed in a small box in the basement," police said in a statement. "The next day she was moved

to a larger box, in which she had enough room to turn around."

Officers said that in May of this year the man allowed her out to look for a job, and she returned each day "out of fear for herself and her family."

In August, the woman consulted a clergyman, who said this week that he did not realize she was being held against her will. "I thought it was just one of those modern marriages," he said.

DEFENCE COSTS. - Morocco will increase defence spending next year by about 10 per cent to \$725 million.

## Curfew clamped on Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (Reuters). - Sri Lankan authorities yesterday imposed a curfew throughout the island nation and ordered all schools shut to prevent a backlash against the minority Tamil community over a separatist attack on police.

A government statement said the curfew, imposed at dawn yesterday, would last until 6 a.m. today.

The statement said that there had been some attempts to create communal trouble since Tamil guerrillas killed 29 policemen in an attack on a police station in the island's troubled Jaffna region. It gave no details.

Police said three small shops owned by Tamils were attacked and burned in the capital Wednesday night, but there were no casualties. They said there were no reports of trouble from other parts of the island.

The government has blamed extremists trained abroad and forthcoming Indian elections for Tuesday's attack, the boldest raid yet staged by guerrillas fighting for the creation of a separate Tamil state in the north of the island.

## Bourguiba leaves hospital

TUNIS (AP). - Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba returned to the presidential palace at Carthage yesterday after being hospitalized since November 5 for heart trouble.

An official communique from the presidency said he was "completely recovered," but that on the advice of his doctors, he would have to spend several more weeks convalescing.

## Bulgaria and Syria decide on closer ties

VIENNA (Reuters). - Bulgaria and Syria yesterday called for closer relations between their two countries and said there was scope for broadening economic and scientific ties, the official Bulgarian news agency BTA reported.

The agency said Syrian Prime Minister Abdel-Rauf al-Kasbi, who arrived in Sofia on an official visit last Monday, and his Bulgarian counterpart Grisha Filipov signed an agreement providing for increased cooperation in farming, hydrology, the food industry and tourism.

BTA quoted both sides as saying that relations between the two countries were excellent and that the two men had held identical views on all international issues which they discussed.

## UK opposition leader slated to meet Chernenko in Kremlin

MOSCOW (Reuters). - British opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock has begun a week-long visit to the Soviet Union during which he will meet President Konstantin Chernenko for talks on nuclear disarmament and East-West relations.

Kinnock confirmed to reporters Wednesday night at Moscow International Airport, where he was greeted by senior Kremlin officials, that he would meet Chernenko.

He said he planned in the talks to cover nuclear disarmament and the development of commercial and cultural links between the Soviet Union and Britain. He also planned

to discuss "the whole question of civil and human rights, which must naturally appear on any agenda."

Kinnock is scheduled to meet Chernenko and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on Monday.

Kinnock is making his first visit to a communist country since taking over as Labour leader from Michael Foot, who came to Moscow in 1981.

Western diplomats have suggested the Kremlin may use Kinnock's visit to introduce a new initiative to break the deadlock between East and West on nuclear arms policies.

## Kremlin meeting cancelled; party conflicts suspected

MOSCOW (Reuters). - The Soviet leadership has decided against holding the annual winter session of the Communist Party central committee and diplomats said yesterday they believed internal political conflicts could be the reason.

British officials said visiting Labour party leader Neil Kinnock had been informed the committee plenum would not take place on Monday as expected and Kremlin appointments set for that day made clear there would be no time.

Western diplomatic experts said the decision not to hold the plenum was unprecedented and most said it could indicate President Konstantin Chernenko wanted to avoid a potential conflict over policy issues or personnel changes.

"It could be that Chernenko has faced opposition to changes he wants

to make in the leadership and feared this could turn into an open challenge at the plenum," one expert said.

Others argued it was possible there were serious disputes over economic policy which could have surfaced at the meeting.

In the past the winter plenum has always approved the following year's budget and economic plan and then submitted them to the Supreme Soviet (parliament) for endorsement.

The sessions have also often been asked to approve changes in the ruling Politburo proposed by the party leader.

The winter Soviet session is set for next Tuesday. Monday is the only day on which the plenum could have taken place.

## Chaos in parliament over £1 cut for miners' families

LONDON (Reuters). - A furious row broke out in the British Parliament over a one-pound week cut in state welfare payments to the families of striking coalminers.

The Speaker dismissed the House of Commons in chaos on Wednesday night after opposition Labour politicians staged a disorderly protest against the Conservative government's decision.

About 30 Labour members of Parliament mobbed the floor of the chamber to prevent Social Services Secretary Norman Fowler from making an emergency statement on the changes in welfare payments.

One left-winger, Dave Nellist, snatched the minister's statement and tore it up.

Some Conservative members of

Parliament were also dismayed by the cut, regarding it as a highly insensitive tactic.

The government had said it was increasing by £1 to £16 the sum strikers are deemed to receive from their unions as strike pay. This amount is then deducted from their families' welfare payments.

The decision caused a furore and was seen by the government's critics as an attempt to tighten the screw on the striking coalminers, who in fact receive no strike pay from their union.

About 11,000 men have returned to their jobs this month, bringing the total working to more than 60,000 of a workforce of 189,000, according to management figures.

## Chinese prosecutor executed for rape

PEKING (AP). - A Chinese state prosecutor in Jiangsu province has been executed for raping six women relatives of court defendants, the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily (Renmin Ribao) reported yesterday.

It said Wang Baoling, 30, was put to death on Wednesday on orders of the Xuzhou City municipal people's court following a trial.

"Wang Baoling was a court officer, but in reality he was a criminal," the newspaper said.

The paper did not explain how Wang was caught, but said his rape spree began in the summer of 1982 during the course of a corruption investigation.

## Brazil launches its own rocket

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters). - Brazil fired a 7.2 ton rocket built mostly with domestic technology in what the air force described as the culmination of 20 years of research work by local scientists.

An air force statement said the launching on Wednesday of the 11-metre Sonda 4 was the first step in a space programme which aims to put Brazil's first satellite in orbit by 1989.

The rocket was launched from Barreira do Inferno (Hell's Barrier) in the northeastern state of Rio Grande do Norte and plunged into the Atlantic 300 kilometres to the east.

## No evidence linking Marcos to Aquino slaying

MANILA (AP). - The fact-finding board which implicated high military officers in the Benigno Aquino assassination found no evidence linking President Ferdinand Marcos to the killing of his political rival, the board's chief counsel said yesterday.

Answering questions at an open forum with Manila rotarians, Andres Narvasa and board member Luciano Salazar said the evidence

gathered by the board alleging military conspiracy had been microfilmed and there was little danger of it becoming lost.

The board found armed forces chief Gen. Fabian Ver and 24 other military men and a civilian "indictable for the premeditated killing" of Aquino and his purported assassin, Rolando Galman, in August 1983.

## EEC, Gulf states agree on bid to end Gulf war

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP). - The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council has achieved an understanding with the European Economic Community to jointly launch an initiative for a phased peace between warring Iraq and Iran, Arab diplomatic sources reported yesterday.

They said the GCC countries prefer western European powers over the U.S. as partners in the projected mediation bid.

"The Gulf countries want to avoid the eventualities of U.S.-Soviet polarization over the Gulf War," said one diplomat. "They do not wish to see any of the two superpowers involved in the Gulf conflict."

The purported initiative, blue-printed by the GCC states and accepted by the EEC, would be announced next January "depending on the response (of Iraq and Iran) to it," he said.

## Sports

### SOCCER PREVIEW

#### League positions not the whole story

By PAUL KOHN  
Post Sports Reporter

TEL AVIV. - Although a mere meeting between the 8th and 11th placed teams in the National soccer League, the clash between Hapoel Tel Aviv and Maccabi Netanya at the Bloomfield Stadium is undoubtedly tomorrow's match of the day.

Before the start of the season, many pundits who were tipping these two clubs as championship contenders, so far it has not worked out quite like that. Certainly, however, both sides are better than their current placings would indicate. Hapoel returned to winning ways against Maccabi Jaffa last week but his game will be a far tougher test for new coach Yaacov Grundman - making his home debut.

Moshe Sinai was subdued in the game against Rumania in midweek and seems to have lost some of his sparkle. Eli Yanni was not fielded in

that game and could cause the Netanyahu defence most problems. Only David Pizanti of the Netanyahu team is currently in the national team, but David Lavie, Benny Lamm and Moshe Gariani, all former internationals, are capable goals.

The Tel Aviv derby between Shimshon and Maccabi will be hotly fought. Current form favours Maccabi, with Miki Ben Shitrit and Moshe Ivaish in fine form, but there may be little in it after 90 minutes.

Maccabi Haifa, the league champions, and Hapoel Lod, second in the standings, will meet in a match of the first round of the 15th placed club, has managed only five goals this season.

Bnei Yehuda, second in the standings, appear to have a much stiffer task in Yavne. Maccabi Yavne last week played a fine game to beat Shimshon 1-0 but Betar, with Uri Mahulian, Eli Olman, Shimon Shitrit and Eyal Azari are another kettle of fish with serious championship aspirations.

Another interesting encounter will be at Kiryat Haim, when Maccabi Haifa will be in charge of Maccabi Jaffa for the first time. Hapoel Haifa will be hosts, and a low scoring game looks the likely result. Maccabi's men might, however, just pull off a surprise.

#### Only Peris matches record entry

By JACK LEON  
Post Sports Reporter

TEL AVIV. - For the first time ever, Israel had three representatives in a Grand Prix tennis tournament abroad, when Shlomo Glickstein, Shabar Peris and qualifier Amos Mansdorf were all among the 32 starters in the \$300,000 South African Open in Johannesburg. A fourth Israeli, Eilon Sinai, lost in the second round of the qualifying competition for this major annual tournament on the men's pro-circuit.

However, only Peris advanced beyond the first round, as he defeated yesterday. Both Glickstein and Mansdorf went out to Americans in the first round, by identical scores of 6-4, 6-2. Glickstein lost to Steve Melnick, whose career ATP world singles ranking of 119th to 31 places lower than the Israeli champion's. Mansdorf - after winning three tough preliminary matches to reach the main draw - was beaten by Jay Lapidota. The American is 86th on the ATP computer, while Mansdorf is 224th.

Israeli junior champion Gidon Bloom has scored one of the best wins of his career, when he defeated No. 4 seed Edmundo Coss of Spain 6-2, 6-2 on the way to reaching the singles quarter-finals of a \$25,000 ATP satellite circuit tournament, while Mansdorf is 224th.

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ment in the Madrid area. The home player is 260th in the world rankings, as against unseeded Peris, who is 119th.

There was a major upset in Jolani-nenberg last night when Colin Dowdswell of Britain put out top-seeded Johan Kriek, the defending champion, 4-6, 7-6, 6-4.

Another upset occurred when Mike Despanier in three sets and Brad Gilbert hammered Claudio Panatta in straight sets.

McEnroe misses Open  
SYDNEY (AP). - An injury to his left wrist will force John McEnroe to miss the Australian Open tennis tournament next week and could also jeopardize his participation in next month's Davis Cup final against Sweden. Having sustained the injury in practice earlier this week, McEnroe was ordered to take a two-week rest.

The \$1.5m. Open begins Monday, with Pat Cash trying to become the first Australian to take the title since Mark Edmondson in 1976. Jimmy Connors has already announced he is taking a rest and will not be available, so Ivan Lendl is top seed.

#### Change of coach, change of fortune

NEW YORK (AP). - Guard Reggie Theus said the Kansas City Kings were faster. Centre Lesau Thompson said they were looser.

But most important, the scoreboard said they were winners.

The Kings, who started the season 1-8 under coach Jack McKinney, played their first game under new coach Phil Johnson this week and scored 22 points more than their opponents in a 101-85 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

Johnson had won the game on Tuesday night 101-97 and was level with only 10 minutes to go. Finishing with 10 points, Johnson kept the hungry Israeli forwards at bay however, and they lost on the overall aggregate of the two games.

Rishon beaten  
Maccabi Rishon LeZion's hopes of advancing in the European Cupwinners Cup competition in handball were dashed last night when they sustained a 21-14 defeat in a dramatic match against the visiting Swedish club Logi Lora.

Rishon had won the opener on Tuesday night 19-17 and were level with only 10 minutes to go. Finishing with 10 points, Johnson kept the hungry Israeli forwards at bay however, and they lost on the overall aggregate of the two games.

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## The Jerusalem Post's Mark Segal examines the current state of intrigue within the Liberal Party

THE LIBERAL PARTY continues to break records for being the most intrigue-ridden element in Israel's body politic. Indeed, it is said that the Liberals have elevated "juggler politics" to a fine art.

According to former Liberal cabinet minister Yitzhak Berman, this penchant for backstabbing is a function of the party's lack of accountability to its supposed constituency. Berman is among those who have been advocating a return to the old General Zionist roots by disbanding the 1965 Gahal agreement with Herut that provided the basis for the Likud agreement which emerged later.

There are those who would go back even further, to the 1961 union between the General Zionists and the Progressive Party, which made up the Liberal Party. According to this view, the centrist group has not faced the voters on its own for two generations, during which time Israeli society and its political patterns have undergone a sea change.

At present, though, only a small, albeit highly influential, segment of the party advocates breaking away from Herut with a view to forming the nucleus of a new centre party with the expectation of attracting such like-minded elements as Ezer Weizman and the remains of the Yehudim. The bulk of Shinui, under the leadership of Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein, is seen as another candidate for such a party, as is Minister without Portfolio Yigael Hurvitz and his Ometz group and diverse elements currently on the fringes of political activity.

These "go-it-alone" Liberals include such figures as Berman, Jewish Agency/WZO chairman Arye Dulzin, Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat, ex-Ramat Gan mayor Israel Peled and ex-MK Dror Zeigerman. But though they may be highly respected, they do not control the power centres of the party.

The current division among the power-brokers has been described to me as being between those seeking—for the moment at least—to ensure the status quo and those striving to win back the status quo ante in the Liberal's relationship with their senior Herut partner.

The current tension between the parties goes back to the 1983 local elections when the first inroads were made by local Herut politicians into arrangements set in place back in the honeymoon period of Gahal.

In a number of cases, independent lists were launched by Herut candidates against Liberal mayoral nominees. The precedent was set in the 1978 local elections, when the ruling coalition on the Ramat Hasharon Council was formed by the Alignment and an independent list led by a young Herut leader, thus propelling the official Likud list into the opposition.

WITH THE ADVENT of the post-Begin era, the Liberals soon felt the cold, strong breeze of Herut animosity. They sought to mollify their partners by sacrificing such independent-minded MKs as Savi-



Yitzhak Moda'i

# The fine art of jugular politics



Avraham Shariar

dor and Zeigerman, but the party still remained the target of such epithets as "trampistim," with such up-and-coming Herut politicians as Ronnie Milo and David Magen spearheading a "dump-the-Liberals" movement.

Some of the Liberals responded with breakaway brinkmanship. The net result of all this activity was that the Gahal agreement remained intact, though it was considerably less secure, and the Liberals had to lower their sights from the original party agreement to receiving just one-third of the Likud cake.

In concrete terms, they emerged from the recent Knesset elections bereft of three Knesset seats, and when the national unity government was finally formed, their cabinet quota was reduced from six to four ministers.

While Herut's fierce struggle for the crown of party creator Menachem Begin is a new phenomenon, inter-factional guerrilla warfare is an intrinsic element of the General Zionist heritage.

The two principal warring factions at present are led by Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i and Tourism Minister Avraham Shariar, with Moda'i enjoying a considerable advantage as chairman of the party presidium over Shariar, who is chairman of the party executive. Shariar, however, currently enjoys an alliance with Justice Minister Moshe Nissim in his efforts to undermine Moda'i's primacy. The fourth Liberal member of the cabinet, Science Minister Gideon Palt, is waging his own war of attrition against Moda'i, a war that is marked by his repeated branding of the package deal freeze as "catastrophic."

When tested for their reaction, Moda'i's party adversaries will quietly remark that the Likud's fifth

finance minister is only getting a taste of the bitter medicine he himself dished out to former finance minister and party colleague Simha Ehrlich. They claim that it was Moda'i who played a leading role in bringing about Ehrlich's downfall.

YET THERE ARE many less partisan Liberals who will say now that Moda'i has finally replaced Ehrlich both at the Treasury and at the party's helm, that it is he who is now carrying the banner of liberal economics and Liberal political independence.

They argue, too, that Shariar is surrounded by people who are intent on becoming part of Herut, like Nissim, or those, like Yitzhak Zeigerman, who have for some time been ideologically an integral part of the Revisionist movement.

What does emerge is that Shariar, Nissim and, to a lesser extent, Palt are in a great hurry to renegotiate their alliance with Herut—or even to attain a merger with the larger party on favourable personal terms.

Further inquiry elicited the view that their haste was intrinsically linked to the price index figures for February 15, 1985. Moda'i's party rivals, it appears, are fully cognizant of the finance minister's high expectations that by then, the monthly inflation figures should have dropped below 10 per cent if he manages to persist on his present course. Such a success should have broad political ramifications—and, it should, substantially bolster Moda'i's leadership position and his standing in the country generally.

While the Shariar-Nissim camp are in a hurry to come to terms with Herut, Moda'i and his allies seek to procrastinate. Moda'i sees no purpose in closing any future political option, arguing that only damage can result from over-hasty decisions.

IT WOULD APPEAR that some Liberals have not entirely taken into account the feelings of their Herut partner, for not all sections of that party were enthusiastic at the idea of such a marriage.

Canvassing Herut opinion on the matter, I quickly learned that relations with the Liberals have become an integral function of inter-faction fighting. Thus, the Sharon-Levy axis is exceedingly cool towards any Liberal increment in the unified party's executive forums for fear they would back the Shamir-Arens alliance. Hence the sudden warmth towards the Liberals by supporters of the vice-premier and the former defence minister.

Some of those who are well-versed in the tortuous tactics of Likud inter-factional maneuvering claim they must become part of the efforts in Herut to ensure or prevent the return of Shamir to the Prime Minister's Office.

On digging beneath the surface of the internal coalition arguments over Moda'i's budget-retrenchment proposals, one finds a fair measure of ice-cold factional calculations.

Levy's supporters are going all out to present him as "protector of the working man," with a clear eye on the Likud elections scheduled for the spring.

That explains, in part, the fervour of hostility towards Moda'i which was revealed at this week's cabinet meeting by Social Services Minister Moshe Katzav, a current ally of Levy in the shifting sands of Herut factional politics.

The same goes for Aridor's all-out offensive in the Knesset Finance Committee, although one should not discount the Herut secretariat chairman's resentment towards his principal Liberal critic during his own stewardship of the Treasury.

At the same time, supporters of the Shamir-Arens alliance are using the opposition tactics of Levy's men as ammunition in their internal war against the deputy premier, as happened at last week's Herut Knesset caucus meeting. They zeroed in on the stillborn no-confidence motion moved by the Herut Histadrut faction, the kernel of Levy's power base, against Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar for his agreement to the package deal freeze arrangement. Not only did they fulminate at such an essentially anti-government initiative by the Levy faction, they also highlighted the way the Herut trade unionists had caused a split in the Likud Histadrut faction, with the Liberal wing staying away from that meeting of the Histadrut executive.

IT DID NOT need only the Shamir-Arens camp to remind everyone that such tactics could prompt some of the more cautious Liberals to shift to the "go-it-alone" camp, which is—as some argue—precisely what the Levy camp seeks.

Moreover, anyone acquainted with the annals of the Gahal bloc remembers that the initial impetus towards the broader alliance was created early in 1965 by the Liberal workers' faction in the Histadrut, when its leader, Dr. Elimelech Rimalt, broke with the "Progressives" Ha'oved Hazioni faction to join forces with Herut's "Blue-White" faction under the leadership of the late Arye Ben-Eliezer. Looming in the Herut-Liberal inter-factional background of the maneuvering is the clear warning from the Moda'i camp, as enunciated by the minister's lieutenant, MK Pinhas Goldstein, that they will insist on having something to say on the Likud succession issue—seen as a clear threat to Levy rather

than to Sharon.

Further in the background are incipient preparations for the Herut national convention, now put off from the coming spring to next autumn, which certainly affords a greater margin of respite to Shamir.

No one in the Liberal Party is talking of calling new party elections until after the Herut assembly, where Herut's leadership problems should come to a head.

An additional and somewhat weighty element in the inter-factional intrigues is the recognition in Herut that the Liberal Party is a much wealthier organization. But any inquiry into the Liberal Party's assets would require the detective skills of a Sherlock Holmes. The late Simcha Ehrlich, while still in charge at Liberal Party headquarters, made arrangements to transfer all the party's assets into special trust funds controlled by his closest party allies, like Liberal Histadrut faction chairman Zvi Remer. Likewise, little is known about the disposal of the millions of shekels pouring into the Histadrut faction's coffers each year as its share of the Likud factions' revenue from the political levy shared out among the Likud political factions.

Remer has been among the bitterest opponents of the Shariar-Nissim merger, going so far as appealing this week to the party's court of honour to block their current moves to open negotiations with Herut.

He was prompted to do so after Shariar's adroit play in the party Knesset caucus a week ago which took the Moda'i camp by surprise. The minister was reportedly so alarmed by the anti-Herut sentiments aired by members of the executive at a previous meeting that Shariar resolved to take action to

reverse the trend. Working in close coordination with his ally, faction head Sara Doron, Shariar prompted her to convene the Knesset faction at a Tel Aviv hotel for a routine meeting. It ended with a recommendation to set up a negotiating team to meet with Herut over ways of improving relations between the two Likud partners with a view to seeing whether a merger was feasible.

The Moda'i camp was taken by surprise, with their leader absent from the meeting. He was deep in talks with the Histadrut and employers, and on hearing of the Shariar merger momentum resolved to adopt counter measures.

Meanwhile Shariar sent Doron to the Foreign Ministry to talk to Yitzhak Shamir about a parallel response from Herut. He himself started sounding out Herut power-brokers and agreed with a Moda'i adversary, Aridor, that the senior Likud partner would appoint its own negotiating team led by acting party executive chairman and Vice-Premier Shamir.

SHARIR FOUND his momentum blocked by the rider attached to his motion by the Moda'i camp, which provides Moda'i with veto rights on the composition of any negotiating team.

Although he had already advised Aridor that he would convene the Liberal executive on the same day as the Herut secretariat to adopt parallel motions about forming negotiating committees, Shariar suddenly cancelled the meeting, putting it off until last night.

It appears that he did so to avoid a showdown, which might lead to a defeat for his group. Such a fear was prompted by a number of uncommitted MKs, like Dan Tichon, who have informed him they would vote with Moda'i.

Behind-the-scenes maneuvering has ensured that if a negotiating team is to be formed it will not be loaded against Moda'i.

Shariar's original proposal mentioned only the four ministers plus Sara Doron and Moda'i's ally Pessah Grupper. The latest version would ensure the cooption of another Shariar supporter, Eli Kulash, two Moda'i lieutenants, Goldstein and Renner, plus Moda'i's ally in this context, Dulzin. This will mean a team that will reflect more faithfully the range of views obtaining in the Liberal Party, not just a function of the Shariar-Nissim-Moda'i strategy.

Indeed, as time passes, it is not even clear how far Palt will go in backing Shariar against Moda'i.

For the moment, it does seem that Moda'i is once again in-charge—and that if the two negotiating teams do meet there will be no hasty decisions. One concrete result that is likely to emerge is the reconstitution of the moribund Likud executive forums.

As to further moves, we'll have to wait for the February index figures and additional shifts in the political kaleidoscope.

## Labour's maverick

The Post's Asher Wallfish talks to Dov Ben-Meir

"THE GOOD of this country requires that the Histadrut not hold its scheduled elections in 1985."

Such is the slogan of a campaign launched recently by Labour MK Dov Ben-Meir, who is also a deputy mayor of Tel Aviv within the wall-to-wall municipal coalition.

Few of Ben-Meir's Labour colleagues would bridle at that call. What they object to is his follow-up: "Let us give the Likud faction in the Labour federation places on the Histadrut executive, in return for their commitment to postpone the elections for two years. During those critical 24 months the country should manage to weather the most arduous phase of economic reform and stabilization. Israel cannot weather that phase amid the commotion of Histadrut elections."

The concept of "commotion" brings Ben-Meir at once to Deputy Premier David Levy. "That man's disciples in the Histadrut central committee did their best to block every concession made by Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar designed to make the economic package deal

possible. They were trying to outflank Kessar on the left, urging greater extremism."

Ben-Meir accepts Levy's understandable objective of working for a Likud success in the Histadrut elections. But he is trying to warn his Labour colleagues of a threat.

"The Likud's strength in the last Histadrut elections was 27.5 per cent," Ben-Meir says. "That figure apparently isn't large enough to worry some of my colleagues. But what they don't realize is that the number of Likud sympathizers in the Histadrut is much larger."

"With a national unity government, the Likud sympathizers who did not vote Likud in the past will feel free to vote Likud in the Histadrut elections. Even if that shift pushes the Likud strength up only to 35 per cent in 1985, it will be seen as a tremendous personal victory for David Levy," says Ben-Meir.

IN THE LABOUR PARTY, his proposal to bring the Likud faction into the Histadrut executive is sharply denounced.

"They treat me as though I were trying to put some pagan idol into the Holy of Holies," he says with a rueful smile. "But behind their objections there are personal interests. They repeat slogans without thinking what may lie behind slogans."

Ben-Meir is particularly critical of politicians who peddle ideological arguments to advance the cause of the working man and who end up in his view by doing the working man a disservice.

"Take Mapam, for instance. Mapam fought against a national unity government. Today they naturally reject bringing the Likud into the Histadrut executive. But Mapam did not succeed in preventing a national unity government. They had one achievement in their

struggle. They managed to ensure that Labour's Shimon Peres will serve only two years as prime minister."

"Mapam is a hypocritical party," he says flatly.

Fully aware of the horns nest he might raise, Ben-Meir adds: "It so happens that Labour and Herut are closer on the problems of ordinary folk and on low-income families than Herut and the Liberals are. Yet Mapam would prefer to sit in a coalition with the Liberal wing of the Likud or with the Aguda faction, and let the Aguda have its Who's a Jew amendment to the Law of Return than to sit with Herut."

"Mapam has already said it would let the Liberals into the Histadrut executive, but not Herut," he said.

NOTING THAT the style of political expression has become less abrasive among the parties, and that Herut followers have stopped equating the Labour party with the PLO, Ben-Meir urges that the national unity government be maintained for at least four years, because of its therapeutic effects.

He believes the unity government can also help bridge the gulf between Jews and Arabs in Israel, between Ashkenazim and Sephardim, between Orthodox and secular Jews.

He also suspects that Levy and Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon will do all they can to prevent Vice Premier Shamir from replacing Peres as premier in 1986.

"If Shamir gets his two years as premier according to plan from 1986 to 1988, Levy and Sharon will fear

Shamir handpicking his own Likud team for the next four years, leaving them in secondary jobs. To ensure their personal advancement, they'll do all they can to bring about elections in 1986, so that Herut will have to stage a fresh internal leadership contest and give them a chance to forge ahead."

Between now and 1986 they'll try to score points off Shamir so as to downgrade him in the eyes of the Herut membership, and at the same time score points off each other. This helps explain why Levy is causing so much trouble inside the Histadrut," says Ben-Meir.

BEN-MEIR is a man who frequently

pops up with unconventional ideas. He has been talking about Labour parting ways with Mapam for years and he talked about a national unity government in 1983. I asked him what made him tick.

"My Labour Party needs to think. It doesn't think enough about what it's doing. I feel I have to make my colleagues sit up and think for themselves."

He can list case after case in which the socialist sector in this country, before and after statehood, wasted energy on barren arguments and on personal squabbles cloaked in an ideological mantle, precisely when the nation was going through its most difficult hours.

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# THE MAGIC OF INCUMBENCY

PUBLIC FACES / Mark Segal



From left: Gad Ya'acobi, Julio Iglesias, Nahum Barnes, Yehzekel Flomin and Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira. (Sven Nackstrand, David Rubinger, Isaiah Karlsky, Isaac Harari)

INCUMBENCY has worked magic for Prime Minister Shimon Peres. In the latest Modi'in Ezrachi popularity poll, he heads the public choice for premier (36.6 per cent), almost tripling his standing since May (14.8 per cent), with his nearest rival, Vice Premier Yitzhak Shamir, lagging way behind (11.6 per cent). As for the present defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, 42.4 per cent of those asked say he should have the job, with the runner-up being Ariel Sharon (19.8 per cent).

But incumbency has not helped Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i (10.5 per cent), who is behind Yigael Hurwitz (27 per cent), or Education Minister Yitzhak Navon (37.3 per cent), who has slipped behind his predecessor, Zevulun Hammer (38.4 per cent).

Yitzhak Shamir's presence at the Foreign Ministry has not convinced the public: in this poll he came in second (24.3 per cent) to Abba Eban (32 per cent), who has been out of the ministry for 10 years.

This poll should add a bit of spice to the life of the new Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee chairman, who recently scored another impressive rating — 20 million viewers in the U.S. for his TV series *Civilization and the Jews*. The book of the series, *Heritage*, has achieved best-seller status with 100,000 copies sold in three months. When Eban recently addressed the Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York (chaired by Kenneth Biskin of the B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League), a speaker quipped that "all honours are open to Eban so long as the Labour Party has nothing to do with it."

NOW THAT Peres and his wife, Sonya, have moved to the official prime minister's residence in Talbiyah's Rehov Balfour, he will have more time to defuse time bombs in his Cabinet. No. 1 is Ezer Weizman, who used the seventh anniversary of the late Anwar Sadat's historic journey to Jerusalem to express how much he was chafing at the bit, and how he would charm Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak into thawing the current cold peace were it not for the "Shamir stumbling block." Although Peres does involve Weizman in some major policy-making, like the search for a way to disengage from Lebanon, there are fears that the impulsive ex-fighter pilot might cause the national unity coalition pot to boil over. Ezer's fires of discontent are reportedly being stoked by his Yabad party pal, and neighbour in the prime minister's office, under-employed director-general Avraham (Abrasha) Tamir. It's said that Weizman has been pressing Peres to find a

way out of the Taba stalemate, in which progress has been blocked by Shamir.

Apocryphal the anniversary of the Sadat visit, former premier Menachem Begin declined to comment when asked this week about the state of Israel-Egyptian relations.

Another unhappy minister is Gad Ya'acobi (Economic Planning), who has been wearing an expression of injured self-esteem ever since he did not get the Treasury. He's always eager to offer alternative measures to whatever is proposed by Moda'i or Peres. Ya'acobi used to have clashes with Peres when he was his deputy years ago at the Ministry of Transport.

**TIGHTEN Your Safety Belt Dept.:** The government will soon resemble the Jewish (Travel) Agency with some ministers only meeting each other in passing at Ben-Gurion International Airport. Deputy Premier and Education Minister Yitzhak Navon has just got back from Toronto; Vice Premier Shamir is just back from the U.S.; Deputy Premier and Housing Minister David Levy is in France; Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon is in New York for his libel suit against *Time* magazine; Tourism Minister Avraham Shari has taken his wife Rivka and spokesperson Devora Ganaai to Paris; and Minister without Portfolio Dr. Yosef Burg has flown to Switzerland on one of

his many junkets. Weizman is off to Europe next week on private business; Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev to Britain for a Joint Israel Appeal speaking tour; Science Minister Gideon Patai to Brazil and New York for the Bonds. Health Minister Mordechai (Motta) Gur, who a fortnight ago urged Premier Peres to ban overseas travel for ministers, will also soon be off to the U.S.

IT'S HIGHLY doubtful that Sharon will heed the advice of Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein to take leave from his official duties for as long as his libel case lasts. Sharon has damaged Israel's image, the Shinui leader told a party meeting in Galilee, referring to Sharon's claim to represent the Jewish people as "absolute nonsense." If Sharon is suing *Time* for \$50m, for the sake of the Jewish people, will he hand over the money to all of us suckers should he win?

**AWAITING SHAMIR'S** return from abroad was the issue of deputy minister appointments. I'm told that if Herut agrees to Liberal Pessah Grupper becoming a deputy at Industry and Trade or Housing, then there'll be no problem about installing Ronnie Milo as No. 2 at the Foreign Ministry. Some nutty problems are still left for Shamir, who'll be Likud deputy defence minister — Michael Dekel or Eliyahu Ben-Elissar — and where will they slot La'am's Ehud Olmert? Not forgetting the deputy ministerial

Sharon promised Shas during the coalition talks.

**PRESIDENT Chaim Herzog** continues to enjoy warm personal relations with all parts of the national unity coalition he was instrumental in setting up. He has regular luncheon meetings with all the senior cabinet ministers, where they know they can talk freely because so far these meetings have been leak-proof.

Last week while visiting Kiryat Gat's Polgat textile plant, Herzog mentioned to chairman Israel Pollack the Israel TV report on unemployment in Sderot in which a jobless man claimed he had been forced to steal. Pollack's people said their advertisements for workers got no response from Sderot, half an hour's drive away. The president subsequently conveyed this conversation to Labour and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Katzav.

The president has been a grass widower this week as his wife Aura, nursing a fractured leg, flew to New York. She had a long-standing commitment as international president of the Council for a Beautiful Israel. It was a black-tie event at the ultrachic Regency's night club that brought in a sizeable amount for the council's educational work. Many celebrities not usually associated with Israeli causes turned out for this one: Hollywood veteran George Burns, Julio Iglesias, Ariane Dahl, Neil Sedaka. ABC TV star Barbara Walters was there and Wall Street financier John

Loeb and Mrs. Arthur Sulzberger, wife of *The New York Times* publisher. And other familiar names: Baroness Edmond de Rothschild, Vivien Clore Duffield, maestro Zubin Mehta, Edgar Bronfman, Senator Frank Lautenberg and jetsetter Gavriel Sherover and his mother Gita Sherover, who flew in from Jerusalem.

**DEMOCRATIC SENATOR** Joseph Bidden of Delaware, the second ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, intends to table legislation to ease Israel's debt burden to the U.S. He announced this at the American Herut-Hatzohar convention in New York, where he was a guest speaker, according to another speaker, who was on the platform with Likud (Herut) MK Ronnie Milo. Arik Sharon and Dr. Benyamin Ze'ev Begin, first-born of the Herut founder, Milo was in the U.S. with Labour MK Ora Namir as guests of the Democratic party to observe the American electoral process.

**ONE HEARS** of continuing tension between Jewish Agency Board of Governors chairman Jerrold (Chuck) Hoffburger and Agency/WZO chairman Arye Dolev over the best means of streamlining that organization. I gather that the least popular name at Agency H.Q. is *Koteres Rashit* editor Nahum Barnes, whose magazine claimed Israel could save \$500m. by closing down the Agency.

**THE FOREIGN** Ministry will soon be sending some of its bright young men to work as apprentices at top Madison Avenue PR agencies. This is part of a scheme to harness the goodwill and expertise of American Jewish public relations people to Israel's cause, which is the brainchild of Philip Baum, associate executive director of the American Jewish Congress.

**Queen Elizabeth** is deeply worried about the effect of unemployment on her country's youth. This was reported by Mimi Avner, wife of Ambassador Yehuda Avner, in an interview with *Ma'ariv* while on home leave. Mrs. Avner revealed the contents of one of her two conversations with the British monarch at Buckingham Palace.

The many Israeli friends of former Austrian press and cultural attaché Barbara Taurar will be interested to learn that she has been appointed as counsellor at the Austrian Embassy in Paris. This post should be more suitable than the previous plan to send her to Zagreb to direct the Austrian cultural centre there.

**HOW COME** after all these months Justice Minister Moshe Nisim has refrained from asking for the extradition from the U.S. of a leading suspect in the terrorist underground, Ira Kappaport?

**Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira** has obtained the Knesset Finance Committee's permission to use the government housing grant of IS16n. (\$30,000) to acquire a key money flat in Jerusalem. The amount fell far short of housing prices in the capital, the chief rabbi explained.

**BELT-TIGHTENING DEPT.** Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo (Chich) Lahat has just returned from a fund-raising trip from the U.S. His home was his city's poverty. He returned to a city in severe financial straits, which did not stop him from asking Tel Aviv's finance committee this week for approval of an outlay of \$300,000 for suitable decor where the city council meets. The city council only lately spent \$22,000 on the foreign junkets of city councillors.

**ARRIVALS LIST.** Harry Reasoner, one of the trio of anchor-men on CBS-TV's *Sixty Minutes*, American TV's top-rated public affairs magazine, is due here next week to interview an Israeli public personality. We can't help but wonder whether Reasoner — the only non-Jew in the *troika*, which also includes Morley Safer and Mike Wallace — has been chosen because of Wallace's tendency to get into hot water when he covers "Jewish issues."

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FORMER U.S. president Richard Nixon has presented President Reagan with a prescription for failure. In an interview with *The Wall Street Journal* he advised Reagan to repeat all the mistakes that he himself made during his first year in office.

He suggested that Reagan conduct negotiations with the Soviet Union regarding a settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict. "I think the Soviet Union should play a role in the Middle East," he said. "After all, the Russians are there."

Nixon also advised Reagan to move quickly on the Middle East, at least by early 1985, as only in a non-election year will the U.S. have an opportunity to come up with anything responsible in the Middle East. This suggestion would have been very interesting to the Reagan Administration or alarming to Israel had it not already been tested and found to fail in the first year of Nixon's tenure in the White House.

The foreign editor of *The Wall Street Journal*, Karen Elliott House, who interviewed Nixon, reports that "Mr. Nixon believes that given the clout of American Jewish voters, sound Mideast policy is possible only if it is launched by early 1985." He says: "In 1986 there is no way you can do anything in the Middle East that won't be tilted too far in the direction of Israel."

These remarks may mislead newcomers to Reagan's National Security Council or other presidential advisers who may believe that President Reagan should not miss in 1985 - when he will be free from Jewish pressures - the opportunity of imposing a solution on Israel.

But to all those who remember what happened in the first year of Nixon's reign, these remarks seem rather strange. The Nixon Adminis-

tration made a tremendous effort in 1969 to reach an agreement with the Soviet Union on a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute. The suggested plan foisted on the public dismayed Israel and Diaspora Jewry. Despite Israel's fierce opposition, the Nixon Administration did not hesitate to pursue its plan, which became known as the Rogers Plan. After then U.S. secretary of State William Rogers, Nixon's endeavours to impose an American-Soviet "solution" on the Middle East failed because the Soviet Union was unable to "deliver the goods" - Arab acquiescence in the Soviet-American understanding on the Middle East.

RICHARD NIXON has very little to reveal in his memoirs on the trials and errors of his 1969 Middle East policy. He devotes to them only two trivial sentences. But his national security adviser, Henry Kissinger, describes them in 38 pages of his book *The White House Years*, and he concludes as follows: "Though we had moved in less than nine months from discussion of general principles to the presentation of specific plans, there was no diplomatic progress."

"Nor did relations with Egypt improve. A principal reason may well have been that we had little direct contact with Egypt, and Nasser could only conclude that the longer he waited, the better our offers would become. He had no need to choose between his Soviet connection, his radical policies, and American support so long as every few months another unreciprocated American move occurred."

"Our position on frontiers had moved progressively in one direction - from the 'weight of conquest' to 'rectifications' to 'insubstantial alterations.' No corresponding shift had taken place on the radical Arab

# Prescription for failure

By MOSHE ZAK



Richard Nixon (left); Ronald Reagan. (Camera Press)

or Soviet side on the critical issue of peace.

"At the same time, the Soviet Union did not perceive that it had most to lose from a stalemate: all it did was to add its criticism to Nasser's."

"On December 23, after two months of waiting, the Soviets finally replied to our proposal of October 28, which had supported essentially the 1967 borders. They rejected it... The Four-Power as well as the Two-Power talks were dead. By now

Nixon firmly shared my view that time was not ripe for a settlement; but he preferred to let our initiative run out of steam rather than give a clear-cut order."

AS A MATTER of fact, from April 1969 on, the Nixon Administration conducted very intensive negotiations with the Soviet Union about a plan to be imposed on the Middle East by the two superpowers.

Jacob D. Beam, former U.S. ambassador in Moscow, notes in his memoirs that he headed the American team negotiating with the Soviets in July 1969. Dr. Joseph Sisco, then assistant secretary of state, was dispatched to Moscow for these negotiations, and although the American diplomats yielded on various points, including one that border rectifications should not be of a substantive nature, the Soviet Union insisted that the plan should force Israel to absorb a large number of Palestinian refugees.

This formula was forwarded by the Soviet Union in order to obstruct any agreement. The reason was not published, but one can deduce from other publications that the Arabs rebuffed the Soviets when Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko submitted the Soviet draft to them in June 1969.

According to Mohammed Hassan Heykal, even the leaders of the Arab Communist parties who gathered in Moscow in June 1969 rejected Gromyko's proposals, and Khaled Bakdash, the secretary-general of the Syrian Party, detected in it "Jewish Communist parties."

Anyway, this is what he told Gromyko, who travelled to Cairo to get President Nasser's approval. And he failed there, too.

THE NIXON Administration did not give up its endeavours to pursue negotiations between the two big powers. It continued in talks at UN headquarters and through special channels that were established with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin in Washington.

But all was in vain. No agreement was reached, and the only achievement was a negative one. It intensified the war of attrition between Israel and Egypt.

The Nixon Administration envisaged that if the U.S. yielded to the Soviets on the Middle East and permitted the Soviet Union to participate in shaping the destinies of the Middle East, the Soviet Union might assist the U.S. in reaching an agreement in Vietnam. This was the famous linkage doctrine. But this idea failed, too.

Had the Nixon Administration continued with the rhetoric of the president's first year, the Middle East would have faced a disaster, but as a matter of fact, there was a broad gap between Nixon's rhetoric and Nixon's deeds.

His deeds were directed in the following years by the sobering understanding that the Jewish vote is not hampering American policy in the Middle East.

The Nixon Administration continued its dialogue with the Soviet Union on the Middle East, as can be seen in the communiqués published after the two summit meetings of May 1972 in Moscow and June 1973 in San Clemente. It was in the year of 1973, the first year of President Nixon's second term - after he was elected by an overwhelming majority - that the Nixon Administration tried again to pursue "the benefits of a non-election year" and unintentionally contributed to the crisis of October 1973.

THE AGREEMENT between the two big powers not to intervene militarily in regional conflicts was interpreted by the Egyptians and by the Syrians as some sort of promise that the U.S. would not intervene in the event of Arab aggression against Israel.

It was not, however, meant this way by the superpowers, but the Nixon-Brezhnev agreement was so interpreted in Cairo and Damascus.

Certainly, when the Yom Kippur War broke out, the Nixon Administration realized the dangers facing the Middle East, and Israel is certainly most obliged to the U.S. for its kind assistance in that grave hour.

But one should not forget that it was Soviet pressure on the U.S. that restrained Israel from achieving its full victory. The Soviet Union had promised at this juncture to bring to the peace conference all Israel's Arab neighbours. But, again, the Soviet Union failed to deliver the goods. Not even the Syrians, the most pro-Soviet of Israel's neighbours, attended the Geneva Peace Conference, despite the American-Soviet agreement.

It was not the Jewish vote (which Nixon refers to as "the clout of American Jewish voters") that kept Nixon from fulfilling his dream of an American-Soviet agreement on the Middle East, but Moscow's inability to bring its Arab allies to acquiesce in any peace settlement.

Nixon's advice is neither new nor is it workable. His idea has been tried already in order to gain the Soviets' help in other areas.

In the meantime, another way was tried by others, and it achieved peace between Egypt and Israel - a peace agreement in which the Soviet Union was not a partner.

The writer is former editor of Ma'ariv.

WHAT DO U.S. State Department officials mean when they demand that Israel raise the quality of life in the administered territories?

We, the Israelis in contact with the residents, not formally, but just as people who live on both sides of the Green Line - and those of us who believe in peace with the Palestinians - realize that two factors characterize the situation of the population and its desires: economic well-being, the result of full employment and very low taxation on the one hand, and ill-will, the result of the continued occupation, on the other.

But what, actually, do the Americans mean? If by "quality of life" they mean standard of living, level of education or freedom of expression, it might be a good idea to remind them that under Israeli rule the Palestinian standard of living has increased tremendously.

In contrast to the unemployment that was rampant before 1967, there has been full employment; the gross national product has multiplied 3.8 times in the West Bank and 3.4 in Gaza. The local product (not taking into account income derived from labour within Israel) has multiplied three times in both areas, while construction in the West Bank increased from 120,000 sq.m. in 1970 to 790,000 sq.m. in 1980, and in Gaza from 15,000 to 250,000 respectively.

During those same years, the number of privately owned cars in the West Bank increased 11 times and in Gaza 18 times, and the number of tractors in the West Bank increased from 450 to 2,500 (in Gaza from 70 to 700).

Another factor contributing to the higher standard of living has been the hundreds of millions of dollars streaming into the territories - and into the pockets of some of its notables - from the rejectionist states.

DESPITE THIS STEEP rise in the standard of living, the wealthiest elements of this population willingly grasped the American contention that their economic situation is dire: at a recent meeting with the British foreign minister, Geoffrey Howe, five such individuals complained of, among other things, their difficult economic plight. "We're miserable," one of them told reporters afterwards, complaining that the Israeli Treasury has been squeezing them for taxes - as if this same notable wasn't fully aware that many Israelis had requested that their



In the market in Bethlehem

businesses be registered in the territories so that they could be assessed according to the tax rates in effect there. That is, until the Treasury closed off that handy avenue.

And for those who claim that "man does not live by bread alone," here are a few interesting facts about education: Between 1967/68 and 1980/81, the number of pupils and students in the West Bank increased from 142,216 to 266,45, an increase of 87 per cent, while the overall population during this same period only increased by 21 per cent (in Gaza, the number of students increased by even more).

Even more interestingly, King Hussein had forbidden the establishment of universities in the West Bank so as to prevent them becoming hothouses of nationalistic incitement, while under Israeli rule, no less than six universities were created - in addition to the freedom each resident enjoys to simply pick up and study in any Arab country.

Moreover, the specific Jordanian law which provided the legal basis for the establishment of the University of Amman did not prove suitable for those universities which were about to be established on the West Bank. Israeli legal advisers sought and located a more flexible law, the Jordanian Education and Culture Law of 1964, which in Jordan had been applied to elementary and high schools. This was applied to the West Bank universities so that their students and staff wouldn't feel

# THE ROAD TO CHANGE

By ZVI ELPELEG

too politically restricted. As is well known, they have been rather quick to exploit this in a somewhat exaggerated fashion.

BUT PERHAPS the meaning of the term "quality of life" lies in the concept of freedom of expression within the territories. If so, perhaps the Americans should be reminded that, prior to 1967, no newspapers of any political persuasion were permitted to operate on the West Bank. Two newspapers owned, in fact, by Palestinians (*al-Jihad* and *Falastin*) were published in Amman. Hussein always liked having universities and newspapers close by, where he could keep an eye on them.

Today, under Israeli rule, there are four dailies, six weeklies and monthlies and an assortment of irregularly published journals, some of them put out by PLO sources. There are also some which get their money and inspiration from such countries as Libya.

Former Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf, a disciple of George Habash's Popular Front, interviewed in that organization's official mouthpiece, *al-Hadaf* (The Goal), on August 19, 1980, was quoted as saying, "Every expression of support for our Palestinian nation that occurs in Amman or Baghdad, in Kuwait or in any Arab state is dependent upon the permission of the authorities there - therefore, the territories) can be stronger and more powerful than our mass struggle in the Arab world." In other words, according to Khalaf, the Palestinians enjoy greater political freedom under Israeli rule than elsewhere in the Arab world.

None of this, of course, can erase the bigger taste of the occupation. Conquest is conquest, even when there is economic plenty, even when there are universities and newspapers that have the freedom to curse the State of Israel and the Jews every

morning.

But perhaps what is meant by the "quality of life" is, a concerted attempt by the Americans to bring about a political change in the status of the territories. If so, someone should tell them that the behaviour and actions of their officials in Washington and here haven't contributed much to the furtherance of a political accommodation between Israel and the Palestinians in the territories. Since the start of the Seventies, they have consistently courted PLO militants and rejected any outstretched hand offered by more moderate Arab leaders willing to talk peace with Israel.

AT CAMP DAVID, both the Americans and the Egyptians tended to believe Israeli protestations that the West Bank notables would join them in support of the peace process.

On the basis of this belief, Jimmy Carter was able to declare to journalists on September 27, 1978: "I know now that we can get some Palestinians to negotiate." And Harold Saunders of the State Department was able to say two days later, "There is hope that Palestinians from the affected areas will be willing to participate."

But all the participants in the negotiations ignored Israel's policies in the territories (including the 1972 and 1976 elections that had brought the radical supporters of the PLO to the fore of the local councils) and brought about the imposition of

PLO control of the local population - at the expense of Israel, Jordan, and the objective interests of the residents.

Anyone lacking proof of this miserable situation need only recall May 1979, when the autonomy talks began and not one Palestinian came to the bargaining table because, after a few incidents of political assassination, no one dared.

Because of the agreements signed at Camp David, two mutually opposed political groups emerged. On the one side were the PLO supporters organized within the National Guidance Committee, which subsequently incited the local population against the agreements and the peace process. In the streets of the cities, violent demonstrations erupted, road blocks were set up and rocks and grenades were thrown. On the other side, some groups emerged claiming their right to support negotiations with Israel.

In the first group were the radical mayors and heads of other institutions sponsored by the PLO, and countries like Libya and Algeria. In the second group were those who started the Village Leagues and a group of intellectuals requesting the establishment of the Democratic Movement for Peace. The latter also drew up a new Palestinian Covenant to replace that of the PLO, calling for an end to the occupation and peaceful coexistence with Israel.

For years the former group operated almost free of interference, during which time it received a flood of funds from the PLO and Jordan. But in the case of the latter, moderate, group, a tide of opposition arose everywhere. Jordan threatened to expropriate the property of those affiliated with it, going as far as to sentence them to death. The PLO simply dispatched assassins. Nor did Israel ever greet them with any real enthusiasm: out of ignorance and misunderstanding, some Israeli journalists termed them "quintlings."

INSTEAD OF supporting those favouring peace, the Americans met them with undisguised hostility. The officials of the U.S. consulate in East Jerusalem bent over backwards to besmirch the names of the moderate leaders. They ignored them, slandered them, called them traitors to their own cause. The Americans denied them the right to speak for the Palestinians, as if they were saying that the only way to assert Palestinian nationalism is through armed struggle with Israel and as if

Naif Hawatmeh - who was born in Salt in Jordan - enjoyed a greater right to represent the Palestinians than did Mohammed Nasser, the Hebron intellectual who founded the D.M.P.

The Americans themselves declared their willingness to recognize the PLO if it voiced its readiness to accept Israel's right to exist; the PLO, which genuinely desired American recognition, refused to comply.

If, after all this, the militants in the territories have won more support than the moderates, what can the local residents conclude? There are those who suspect that the U.S. and Israel wish to promote a strong radical leadership to support the contention that there really isn't anyone out there to negotiate with. And there are those who simply see in this an affirmation of the PLO's strength. In both cases, people conclude that moderate leaders' something best expressed in private, while war cries should be voiced publicly.

The U.S. is pressuring Israel to allow the establishment of an Arab bank in the territories and, in principal, there's nothing wrong with this. There are dozens of branches of Israeli banks in the territories and the residents have every right to demand an Arab bank as a *quid pro quo*.

The pity is that such a bank cannot be established within the framework of a general political solution, rather than as a separate act. Now the possibility exists that such a bank could become a PLO financial front, much the same as the city councils fell under PLO control after the 1976 elections.

Banks, factories, universities and newspapers are all well and good, but only if these serve the cause of peace, advance a political solution to the conflict and serve the true interests of the local residents.

The majority of them are grateful to the PLO for restoring their national pride, both locally and internationally. But many are also disappointed that, until now, the PLO hasn't come up with an original idea of its own other than calling for the continuation of the struggle against Israel.

Do we need wild imaginations to picture a situation in which the residents of the territories might prefer the PLO to change its stance to one desirous of peace?

The writer is a researcher specializing in Palestinian history at Tel Aviv University's Shiloah Centre.

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# THE JERUSALEM POST

**HALUACH HEHADASH - Classified Advertisements**  
in cooperation with MA'ARIV • HA'ARETZ • HA'IR • KOL HA'IR  
All classified advertisements for Friday submitted to Haluach Hehadash head office  
by 5 p.m. Thursday preceding publication appear in this section

## Vehicles

### Cars for Sale

Samba 82, well-kept, formerly rental. 789183.

Solara SX 1600, 1981. 777228.

Dalhousie 1000, 83, automatic, air-conditioned, one owner, 13,500km. 02-915170.

Intocenti, 1982, excellent, one owner, test, 25,000. 02-693855, 02-82835.

Kiten 1977, excellent condition, bargain. 02-20109, 02-25052.

Go through us! Your ad will reach everyone in the country! When you advertise in... Luch Hehadash and all other newspapers! At Pishum Havia. 02-244415.

Charmant 1300 1983 + air conditioner, stereo, like new. 02-78389, 02-827894.

Dalhousie Charade 1000, 1983, 19,000km, private, one owner, original air conditioner. 02-492077.

### ALFA ROMEO

Campaign! 50% discount on price of regular advertisement at Luch Hehadash on car sale ads. Details at advertisement agencies.

Alfa Romeo 75, excellent condition, less than list price. 02-86729.

Sud 1200, 1983, one owner, radiotape. 02-91795.

### AUDI

80, C.L., 1300, 1983, one owner, year test. 02-471874.

Due to departure! Audi 80, 1983, 40,000km. 02-80291.

80 CL 1300, 1982, one owner, 25,500. 02-316173, 02-321309.

80 CL 1300, metallic, one owner, 1984. 02-896663, 02-842665.

80 SC 1600, automatic, 1984, 13,000km. 02-76150.

80 GLS 1600, one owner (from dealer), air conditioner, well-preserved. 02-896663, 02-842665.

80, regular, 1985, 1300, due to departure. 02-343175.

80TCS 1984, 8000km. 067-94152; Saturday, 02-44488.

Audi 80, 1984, 1300, like new, 8000km. 02-945381.

### AUSTIN, MORRIS

Mini Minor, 1600, 1000km. 427834.

### AUTOBIANCHI

Computest: Yona Ben David, Daniel Per, the professional management that operated Dynamometer for 18 years. Computest is not Dynamometer, we are located opposite.

Junior 1980, second owner, test, 39,000 like new, 5900, 78048.

Red Junior 1983, one owner, 20,000km. + extras. 02-77735.

### B.M.W.

2002 L, 1975, superior condition, passport to passport. 02-34098.

Campaign! 50% discount on price of regular advertisement at Luch Hehadash on car sale ads. Details at advertisement agencies.

1502, 1976, 14,000km, excellent mechanically. 02-761563, 02-896663.

315, 83, beautiful, like new, 25,000km, additions. 02-927866.

316, automatic, air conditioner, one owner, new model. 02-27599, 02-31385.

318 E automatic, 1982, special + extras. 02-42232, 02-23337.

Bargain! 518, 1984, fantastic, metallic, one owner, extras, Pioneer 78-78389.

From doctor, 316, 1982, one owner, special, extras, like new. 02-52826.

1981, 315, excellent condition, metallic, extras. 02-25743.

### CITROEN

Campaign! 50% discount on price of regular advertisement at Luch Hehadash on car sale ads. Details at advertisement agencies.

G.S.A., 1982, one owner, excellent, from doctor. 02-54192.

GS station 78, semi-automatic, one owner, 057-412708, not Shabbat.

GSE, 1984, 2700km, air conditioned, \$14,000. 423001.

Commercial CARS

Campaign! At Luch Hehadash! Auto sale ads at 50% of cost of regular ads. Details at advertisement agencies.

Chevrolet commercial van 1982, adapted for transporting passengers. 02-22265, 02-34095, evenings.

Fiat 127 Sport 1300, 1983, Renault 5GT, 1983, 6,000km. 02-44822, 02-72668.

From import! Engines, gears, back axles, other parts, for all trucks, Muesli Spare Parts, 51 Hamaalacha, Industrial Area, Holon. 02-809662.

Volkswagen, double cabin, 1976, overhauled, tyres, list price. 04-94025, not Shabbat.

D 300 lorry, 1974, long chassis, good condition. 051-84454.

Dodge 200, double cabin, 76, excellent condition. 02-335840, 02-634977.

Fiat + Danish crane, television window + Alon G. 02-86238.

Ford Transit, 81, excellent condition (previously Defence Ministry). 02-38166.

GMC Vanadia, short, 1975, windows, list price. 02-918863.

Peugeot 69, 1983, after accident, bargain. 02-884834, from 14.00.

Rom Carmel, 81, good condition, test, 1,500km. 02-923205, days: 02-85639, evenings.

Peugeot van 404, box in good order, 1983, one owner. 02-25251, week days.

Ford Transit, 74, for passengers, excellent. 02-454317.

GMC 1979, long. 051-26661, 051-29386, 021-27242.

Must be sold! Peugeot 404, 71, excellent condition. 02-83995.

Petrol tanker, Man, 74, shareholder, one owner, 260, 83, 02-942443, work.

Peugeot van, closed box, 1973, before overhaul. 02-832401; home, 02-990870.

Renault 4 1100, commercial, 84, 10,000km, 3 months on road. 02-59337; evenings. 02-77678.

Transit 1980, for passengers, year's test. 02-81302, work. 02-389290.

Volkswagen minibus, diesel, 78 model, transporting up to 20. 067-92596, 067-95126, not Shabbat.

FIAT

131, 1600, automatic, 1982, 12,000km. 02-94968, from 16.00.

131, Superminilord, 1979, grey metallic, 115,000, air conditioner, excellent condition. 02-413417.

Ronda L, 1984, 13,000km, 9 months. 02-672695.

## Computest: Don't buy a car without a guarantee certificate by Computest.

valid for 6 months. 330632.

Campaign! 50% discount on price of regular advertisement at Luch Hehadash on car sale ads. Details at advertisement agencies.

127, 1050 engine, 1983, one owner, excellent condition. 765127.

Bargain! For new immigrants, Fiorio 83, 53,000, excellent. 02-863767.

Fiat 131, 1600, 1981, excellent condition, exchange possible. 02-343253.

Fiat Ritmo, 1982, 18,000km, like new, 813487.

127, 1974, year test, one owner, excellent condition. 02-414614.

127, 1980, one owner, 52,000, year's test. 02-404661.

Panda 1982, one owner, test, 45,000, wonderful. 3,400,00. 02-688130.

### FORD

Computest: grants a 6 months guarantee certificate to all vehicles in good condition. 02-330632.

Cortina 1600 GL, 1982, 12,000km, from disabled. 02-740550, from Sunday.

Cortina station, 1982, 1600, automatic, excellent. 02-226079, 02-61788.

Cortina 1300, 1982, 30,000km, one owner. 02-337851, 02-23016.

Cortina 1980, 1982, 30,000km, one owner, 157,000,000. 02-721915.

Subaru 1400, 1974, excellent mechanical condition, accessories. 02-946421.

Subaru Private, 1983, wonderful metallic spray, Holander. 02-29954.

Subaru 1800, automatic gear, 1982, 02-23265; evenings. 02-340895.

1300, 83, one owner, 11,000, exchange for inexpensive possible. 02-23233, 02-24892.

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## For serious only! Golf 83, Cabriolet

1800, GTA, 30,000km. 02-70628, from 16.00.

Golf 1300, 1981, air conditioner, 5 doors. 02-871712, 02-80150; Friday: 02-871712, 02-76523.

Renault 9 1400, end of 83. 02-599337; evenings. 02-77678.

SAAB

Seeking to buy Saab from 1970 in good condition. 02-835468.

SIMCA / CHRYSLER

Solara 1600, automatic, 1982, power steering, radio. 02-343935.

Solara 1600, SX, 1982, excellent! 02-28787, not Shabbat.

Talbot 1100, 1981, 87,000km. 02-92264, 02-91067, 02-80150.

SUBARU

1300-5, 1982, well-kept, accessories. 02-453304.

1800-80, station, automatic, air conditioner, 97,000km. 02-289128, 02-7033.

Computest: Did you receive a guarantee certificate issued by Computest then you may buy your vehicle without hesitation, we are not Dynamometer, but located opposite.

New! Subaru 1300, 1984, blue, 157,000,000. 02-721915.

Subaru 1400, 1974, excellent mechanical condition, accessories. 02-946421.

Subaru Private, 1983, wonderful metallic spray, Holander. 02-29954.

Subaru 1800, automatic gear, 1982, 02-23265; evenings. 02-340895.

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UNITED STATES officials are expecting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to authorize some modest steps aimed at improving relations with Israel in the coming weeks and months. Why? They cite Egypt's pending requests for increased economic and military assistance from the U.S.

The triangular relationship between Washington, Cairo and Jerusalem has become a permanent fact of life since the late president Sadat's journey to Jerusalem in November 1977. Thus, when Egyptians make decisions affecting Israel, repercussions are also felt in the U.S. Under Mubarak, ties between Israel and Egypt have been strained. The Egyptians blame Israeli policies on the West Bank and in Lebanon. Israeli officials argue that Egypt, under Mubarak, has been merely seeking to regain support in the Arab world and that the "cold peace" would probably have developed irrespective of any controversial Israeli policies.

State Department officials in Washington take a middle position. They are prepared to criticize both Israel and Egypt for contributing to the deterioration.

They note, for example, that such Israeli actions as the continued establishment of West Bank settlements, the destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the extension of Israeli law to the Golan Heights and the invasion of Lebanon were certainly destabilizing to the Israeli-Egyptian relationship.

AT THE SAME TIME, the Americans are more than willing to criticize Egypt's less than forthcoming attitude toward Israel, especially the refusal to return its ambassador to Tel Aviv despite hard assurances that this would be done.

Secretary of State Shultz is known to be very irritated by the Egyptian refusal to live up to what he believes was a commitment to send the ambassador back following the signing of last year's ill-fated Israeli-Lebanese security agreement. As a result, Shultz has lost some of his confidence in Egypt's good intentions.

Overall, Egyptian policy, as seen by American experts, has been fairly consistent. During several interviews, they predicted that Egypt would continue to try to improve its position in the Arab world. At the same time, they expressed doubt that the Egyptians would allow their relationship with Israel to collapse totally, given Egyptian dependence on the U.S. for so much economic and military assistance.

Indeed, they agreed that during the coming period of final budget deliberations by the Reagan administration, there might even be some superficial effort to improve ties with Israel. They predicted that Mubarak would symbolically dispatch yet another special emissary to Israel for talks with Prime Minister Peres, although they were doubtful that the ambassador himself would be returned.

Israeli officials in Washington, for their part, are deeply concerned

## Three-sided diplomacy

By WOLF BLITZER

over Egyptian policy. They belittled the importance of the special emissary, insisting that he probably would be "low-level," with little real authority.

WHAT IS CLEAR to most observers in Washington is that Egypt is not going to break its peace treaty commitments with Israel formally, because that would have immediate and very serious consequences. Egyptian officials recognize, for example, that Israel is still a formidable military power. Given the very expensive and painful concessions made in Sinai, Israel would understandably be deeply angered by any such move.

They also know that very few U.S. senators and congressmen would be willing to vote for billions of dollars in additional economic and military assistance to an Egypt which ripped up the peace treaty. The major reason Egypt has become such a large recipient of U.S. aid is its peace with Israel. Indeed, aid levels to Egypt are informally linked to those

of Israel. Every time Israel receives some increases, Egypt tends to benefit automatically.

"That may be different this year," one U.S. official predicted the other day, citing the record Israeli requests for increases and the concern in Washington over Egyptian policies.

Any Egyptian move to completely sever ties with Israel would automatically have to be accompanied by an Egyptian decision to move away from Washington and back toward Moscow. The prevailing U.S. assessment is that the members of Mubarak's regime — especially his military officers — have no such desire. They have become "hooked" on U.S. military technology and they prefer dealing with Americans rather than Russians.

All of which suggests that the coming months will witness more of the same in terms of Israeli-Egyptian relations — cool but correct. The letter of the treaty will be observed, if not the spirit.

The Egyptians have benefited from the peace treaty. For one thing,

the Sinai oilfields which Israel returned have helped to make Egypt a net oil-exporting country. Income from those oilfields — including the several hundred million dollars a year spent by Israel in purchasing some of the oil — has been very helpful.

The direct U.S. economic and military aid transfers to Egypt — including enormous stocks of food — have also become very important in maintaining Egypt's standard of living and defence capability. But all that would quickly collapse in the face of a total rupture with Israel.

THERE ARE still some potential pitfalls on the horizon. For one thing, Egyptian officials are once again discussing the possibility of reviving their joint diplomatic initiative with France aimed at changing UN Security Council Resolution 242 to make it more palatable to the PLO. The Egyptians, moreover, have not totally rejected the Soviet Union's proposal for an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Both the U.S. and Israel have strongly rejected both notions.

Egyptian National Security Adviser Osama al-Baz told David Tofic Mizrahi, editor of the New York-based *Mid East Report*, that the Soviets should not participate at the first stage of resumed peace negotiations.

"At the initial stage," al-Baz said, "we might work in the framework of narrower participation in the nego-

tiations. It would not be possible to jump from the status quo to holding an international conference. You might have to go through a transition first. And to establish a transition regime on the West Bank and Gaza, you might do it... through a narrower participation that should include Israel, Egypt, Jordan, the U.S. and the Palestinians."

Al-Baz went on to note, however, that "at a later stage, it might prove necessary to widen the scope of peace, and we believe it would be very useful to involve other Arab countries... and if we can have the U.S. and the Soviet Union involved to bring about a permanent peace at this stage, for finding a final solution to the Palestinian question, I think this would be positive, because the two countries, and maybe other permanent members of the Security Council, would be asked to contribute in terms of security guarantees, and so on."

THE AMERICAN Jewish Congress, in a just-released report, was gloomy in predicting that both Egypt and Jordan would eventually go along with the Soviet proposal for an international conference.

"The ultimate proposal of the conference," it said, "would be to press for the establishment of a PLO-led Palestinian state on the West Bank." It added that "such a move is part of a deliberate long-term Egyptian policy designed to return Egypt to the Arab fold at the expense of relations with Israel."

But this will be a very difficult line for Egypt to tread, given its Washington connection. And the report agreed that it was improbable that the Egyptians would go as far as formally renouncing the peace treaty.

A considerably more pessimistic assessment was offered by Stephen Green, the American author of *Taking Sides: America's Secret Relations with a Militant Israel* and an outspoken critic of Israel. He visited Cairo in recent months and has written a lengthy article predicting that Egypt will eventually restore its Soviet connection.

"This will probably be followed by an agreement for a major purchase of spare parts for Egypt's still largely Soviet-equipped army and air force. After that, Egypt will begin to acquire new weapons systems, probably starting with an advanced air-defence system. Concurrently, from the Soviets or elsewhere, Egypt will quietly continue to seek a deterrent — presumably against Israel."

But Green's conclusion of a total split with Israel and a move back toward the Kremlin was rejected by senior U.S., Israeli and Egyptian officials in Washington.

One Israeli charged that Green's assessment was based on wishful thinking. Egypt, he said, simply has too much at stake to overstrain its relationship with Israel. There are limits beyond which the Mubarak government cannot go.

The writer is The Jerusalem Post's Washington correspondent.

JEALOUSY was the feeling that flooded over me. It happened while I was attending a briefing with four visiting U.S. congressmen at the U.S. Information Service in Jerusalem. I was overcome by the inevitable comparison with our own Knesset Members.

I have long been aware of the decline in the level of our political leaders, but nothing drove that perception home as much as this recent opportunity for comparison.

The U.S. delegation consisted of Democrats Kenneth (Buddy) MacKay of Ocala, Florida, Robert Matsui of Sacramento, California, and James Slattery of Topeka, Kansas, and Republican Bill McCollum of Altamonte Springs, Florida.

In age they ranged between Slattery's 36 and MacKay's 51, in seniority, between two and four terms (U.S. congressmen are elected every two years).

The briefing consisted of a 20-minute presentation by each on their interpretation of the recent U.S. elections on "U.S. Politics, Whither?" and on aspects of U.S.-Israel relations.

WHAT WAS so impressive was

their low-key, witty and articulately trenchant observations, and above all their ability to present their view of U.S. politics from four different points of departure, with an impressive ability to assess the strong points of the opposing party and the weak points of their own.

Add to this their career patterns. Slattery was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives at 24, two years before completing his law degree; Matsui was elected to the Sacramento City Council at 30; MacKay to the Florida House of Representatives at 35, and McCollum to the Federal House of Representatives at 36.

I am old enough to believe that young is not necessarily better. But a relatively young start combined with impressive education and opportunities for on-the-job training in legislative and administrative posts quite definitely does lead to impressive results.

I do not want to overdo my basic argument. When I compare the top I have no doubt that the balance of personal qualities of most of our prime ministers was quite clearly superior to the balance brought to the top by the past five American presidents.

## Grooming new leaders

By YOSEF GOELL

It has been and continues to be a weakness of the American system that it so often does not bring the best qualified men into the White House. Perhaps the exhausting inanity of the American campaign method is at fault.

I first began making comparisons when I was studying in and reporting from the U.S. in the late 1960s. I could not but be impressed with the extraordinary qualities of the congressional, senatorial and administration advisory staffs. Many senators and congressmen, however, were often quite a different story. There seems to be a marked change for the better, at these levels, too, in recent years.

The four I met last week were the first to disclaim that they were representative of the House in which they serve. But they did seem to indicate that they were representative of their generation of up and coming elected officials.

Some Israelis in the small audience, and myself, agreed that at least Slattery, a Catholic from Kansas, who attested to his deep personal and historical interest in the Holocaust, stands watching as a possible Democratic presidential candidate in the 1990s.

WHY PHILOSOPHIZE in this sour grapes vein when there are so many more pressing problems — all about us? Because I am deeply convinced

that the twin catastrophes of the Lebanon war and the economy are the direct outgrowth of a long-term decline in the level of our political leadership.

When one looks over our Knesset, and in recent years at our cabinets, it often seems that a random selection of passersby would make a more impressive selection.

The problems are complex. They include a negative selection for competence and character in the parties; the debilitating effects of the long climb up the greasy and often spiritually demeaning pole of a party career, on character, competence and an early sense of idealism and dedication; and a feral sense of personal and party competition and hostility that reminds one of the worst of American synagogue politics or of cut-throat competition in the Seventh Avenue *shmita* trade.

There are exceptions, to be sure. The Likud has been worse than Labour when it compares the old timers; but it has been better than Labour in encouraging representatives of a new generation, and of previously underrepresented groups; to forget the top Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs Moshe

Katzav comes to mind on the Likud side, as well as new MKs Dan Meridor, Uriel Linn and Uzi Landau. Haim Ramon is one such exception on the Labour side. But the overall picture is dreary.

DREARY and maddening. For anyone in the least bit familiar with Israel cannot but be aware of the extraordinary reservoir of human talent and dedication that Israel is bursting with.

But that is just the point. Israel's best used to go into politics. For perhaps the last 20 years Israel's best have been going to the army, to the universities, to business, to settlements — and some to other countries. But not to politics.

Judging from students I have known over this period I believe it fair to say that the best would not touch student politics — the accepted first rung in a political career — with a 10-foot pole. Since politics does not tolerate a vacuum, when not even the second best go into politics, those much closer to the bottom half do.

This is a basic failure of our political system. But speaking of the system is a cop-out. This is a failure of our leaders to seek out, nurture,

and advance younger and outside talents against the claims and pressures of clearly unqualified party hangers-on.

Prime Minister and Labour Party leader Shimon Peres can be especially faulted in this regard, together with his Labour colleagues and rivals, Yitzhak Rabin, Yitzhak Navon and Haim Bar-Lev. They are the ones directly responsible for the uninspiring image of the Alignment's recent Knesset list.

PERES should not be envied. He has been involved these last two months in putting out major conflagrations that were ignited and fanned by his predecessors. But at least for the next two years he is charged with looking to the future of Israel — and need one say, of his own party.

It would not be remiss if he and his Likud counterparts would devote a significant part of their working days to seeking out and grooming the next generation of political leaders. The success or failure of that selection process will have the most profound effect on Israel's future.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

THE FRIDAY supplement of *The Jerusalem Post* last week carried a lengthy interview about the late President Sadat, his peace treaty with Israel, its implications and its execution. Never once in it is there any mention of Sinai.

That the acquisition of Sinai was the prime (indeed, in the opinion of many, the only) motive in Sadat's agreeing to negotiate a peace treaty is not even hinted at. Nor — inevitably — is the fact that Sadat took his dramatic decision in November 1977 to come to Jerusalem only after he had been assured, in September, that he could have Sinai if he would sign a peace treaty.

On the contrary, the interview perpetuates the myth that the peace treaty came about as the result of Sadat's sudden spontaneous vision that it would be good to make peace with Israel. Like Sinai, Begin is not mentioned.

The propounder of this history is not one of Sadat's ministers or biographers but Professor Shimon Shamir, who until recently headed the Israel Academic Centre in Cairo. He proceeds in the interview to give a balanced appraisal of the reasons why the peace treaty is not working as a peace treaty should.

THE IMPRESSION he conveys is that both sides are to blame. This does not present any great difficulty to Prof. Shamir. He simply omits to mention that Egypt has not implemented any of the scores of speci-

fic agreements deriving from the treaty, or that she bars the way to trade, and to tourism from her side; or that (except for that small Israeli cultural centre) no cultural relations have been allowed to develop between the two peoples; or that she has supported resolutions at the UN which conflict with the Camp David agreement. Etcetera.

Presumably unable to ignore completely the unabated vicious propaganda against Israel in the Egyptian media, he chides the Egyptians for not eliminating what he calls "the vocabulary of conflict." He does not mention that that "vocabulary" is specifically prohibited by the peace treaty.

On the other hand he does not mention any breaches of the peace treaty by Israel. (This is easy: there have been no breaches.) Instead he seeks excuses for Egyptian coolness towards the treaty in Israeli "behaviour."

"One of the tragedies of the present situation," he writes, "is that the seven years of the peace process are also the seven years during which some of the most negative aspects of Israeli society and behaviour emerged — years in which he had Jewish terrorism, racism, and certain aspects of Israeli political behaviour that could accurately be termed expansionist."

This pronouncement can accurately be termed twaddle. Even if it were factually true, what has it to do with the peace treaty, which is a legal

## Whitewashing the Egyptians

By SHMUEL KATZ

document, laying down specific obligations? It is, moreover, an insult to the intelligence.

Assuming (as Shamir seems to) the validity of the Egyptian claim that the State of Israel is accountable to Cairo for its "behaviour" in various fields quite unrelated to the treaty, and that a treaty with Israel may be violated and Israel punished for unseemly "behaviour," how, even then, can Israeli operations against the PLO in Lebanon in 1982 have prevented Egypt's fulfilment of the treaty, and justified its violation, three and two years earlier?

How does "Jewish terror" (not directed against Egypt) in 1984 justify Nazi-style propaganda in Egypt in 1979 or 1981? Or an Egyptian plan, announced in April 1982 by (now Foreign Minister) Megrid, whose consummation would mean the elimination of Israel by stages?

THIS KIND of whitewashing and justifying the Egyptians is not new.

Those who were responsible for the peace treaty, or who supported it, are doing it repeatedly. They persist in promoting the myth that all Sadat (and Egypt) wanted was peace with Israel and that wresting every square inch of Sinai from Israel, and making it *judenrein*, was no more than Egypt was entitled to — in spite of her repeated use of Sinai in the past as a base for her attempts to put an end to Israel's existence. The considerable evidence exposing the myth — they have dismissed by perfunctory mention, or glossed over, or simply suppressed.

Professor Shamir, however, goes strangely further in his report, providing a weird sample of his scientific method. He brings back to mind, perhaps unwittingly, the recent history of the Jews of Egypt, a history no less gruesome than that of the Jews of other Arab lands.

There is in Egypt today no more than a pitiful remnant of a once proud and flourishing Jewish community. The vast majority fled the country, or were deported, following two periods of terror, of economic pressure and discrimination, of violence — in and after 1948, again after 1954 (with the rise of Nasser). There were some 85,000 Jews in Egypt in 1948. By 1960 80 per cent had fled; and most of the rest left in the following years. (Israel absorbed about 50,000.) They left most of their property behind.

A conference of World Jewish Organizations in January 1957 described how Jews were encouraged to leave Egypt:

"Large numbers of Jews of all nationalities have either been served with orders of expulsion, or were subjected to ruthless intimidation to compel them to apply for permission to depart. Hundreds who have reached lands of refuge have testified that they were taken in shackles from prison and concentration camps to board ships."

"In order to ensure that this deliberate creation of a new refugee problem should not evoke protests from international public opinion, documents proving expulsion were taken away from expellees before departure. Furthermore, they were compelled to sign statements certifying that they left voluntarily. The victims of this barbaric process were deprived of their possessions."

As to those possessions *The Jerusalem Post* reported on 13 August 1971:

"A convention of former Egyptian Jews held in Paris in July 1971 recommended that legal suits for compensation be filed by all those who had been incarcerated and deported because of the Egyptian-Israeli wars of 1948, 1956 and 1967. The estimated claims for personal compensation, for confiscated communal property and for religious articles, amount to \$1,000 million."

Professor Shamir, evidently trying to impress us with the positive attitude of the "average Egyptian" to the peace with Israel, blandly tells his interviewer — with evident gratification — that "from people in the street you would hear comments like: 'We have been living with Jews in this country for many generations and we can do the same with neighbouring states.' He goes on to say 'that the Egyptian Jew has left an extremely positive impression among his Moslem neighbours.'"

What Jews did Shamir think these "people in the street" were talking about? The Jews, as they were fleeing in 1948? Or those, as they were being deported, in 1954? Or the remnant that remained after the agony of 1967?

EGYPT, regrettably, is but one sector of Israeli reality in which some "experts" and leaders have forgotten Jewish history, obscured elementary truths and, wittingly or unwittingly, misdirected their people.

In the area central and most immediate to Israel's concerns — the future to her stance in Western Palestine — they mute the fact that Palestine is the homeland of the Jewish people and of no other nation on earth, even if there is an Arab minority living and prospering in it. They treat the Jewish national relationship to its homeland as though it must be subordinated to the Arab appetite for more territory; and they help to promote the myth of a "Palestinian nation" separate from the Palestinian nation across Jordan.

They pretend, and propagate the idea, that a "territorial compromise" is feasible — when they know that the unchanging purpose of the Arab nation is to eliminate the "infidel," "alien" Jewish independence from the heart of the Arab and Moslem world.

Again and again we have to return to this debate. It may, however, be appropriate here to go back, briefly, to Egypt whence, some years ago, came a succinct pointer to the roots of the "Palestinian problem."

Al-Musawwar, the prestigious Egyptian weekly, admitted in December 1968:

"The masses of the Palestinian people are only the advance-guard of the Arab nation... a plan for rousing world opinion in stages, as it would not be able to understand or accept a war by 100 million Arabs against a small state."

## All's well that ends well

TORA TODAY / Pinchas H. Peli

THIS TIME it was not ideology, nor religious rivalry, nor high-sounding racial theories. The reason for their misbehaviour is simple envy.

"And the man (Isaac) grew richer and richer until he was very wealthy. He acquired flocks and herds, and a large household, so that the Philistines envied him... And the Philistines stopped up all the wells... dug in the days of his father Abraham, filling them with earth" (Genesis 26:13-15).

On the surface they had most likely acted friendly. They must have been full of praise for the resourceful outsider who boosted the economy of the country. They must have claimed that they were unable to control those "irresponsible elements" who expressed their envy by stopping up the wells that the newcomer claimed had been dug by his father. That they were damaging the country's water supply was less important to them than their determination to blot out all traces of this historic claim.

So, they filled the wells with earth. Not only would there be no more water, but no one was to know that there had ever been water there.

The Bible does not tell us how Isaac reacted to this vandalism. For all we know he kept quiet, perhaps

deliberately hushing up these outbursts of bigotry. He may have been advised by his experts on "community relations" that it was better not to make an issue of the matter.

IF THIS WAS indeed Isaac's calculated policy, it did not work. Following the action of the riff-raff, came the official pronouncement. It was made by none other than a good old friend, Avimelech, who only recently, when in need of Isaac's skill and capital (and perhaps his vote) had proclaimed that "anyone who molests this man and his wife shall be put to death" (*ibid.*, verse 11).

It must be said to Avimelech's everlasting credit that he did not wrap his sinister design in diplomatic double-talk: "And Avimelech said to Isaac, go away from us, for you have become far too big for us." (verse 16).

When Isaac heard the decree, he did not protest, nor put up a fight to prove his historical rights. He was certainly not happy with the decree. But he seemed to know too well that some of the alternatives open to him

might be far worse. In years to come his descendants were to learn that worse than being driven out from the country which they helped build with their sweat and blood is being held captive in a land. This happened only a few generations later, in an almost identical situation in Egypt (see Exodus 1:9-10).

This was the first, but alas not the last time Isaac and his descendants were to hear the cry "Juden raus!" Raul Hilberg, in his monumental work *The Destruction of the European Jews*, sums up succinctly the three anti-Jewish policies we find enacted in history: conversion, expulsion, annihilation. "The missionaries of Christianity had said in effect: You have no right to live among us as Jews (solution: conversion). The secular rulers who followed had proclaimed: You have no right to live among us (solution: expulsion). The German Nazis at last decreed: You have no right to

live (solution: annihilation)." One may find a warning of those three historical stages in the stories of the patriarchs. Abraham was subjected to religious pressure and intolerance; Isaac was expelled because of socio-economic reasons and Jacob faced threats of annihilation from Esau as well as from Pharaoh.

"SO, ISAAC DEPARTED from there and camped in the wadi of Gerar" (verse 17). There, out in the wilderness, he hoped to avoid the envy and enmity of the Philistines. Instead of wasting his energies in conflict with hostile neighbours, he preferred productive activities.

As soon as he settled in the new territory, he went to work digging for water. As long as Isaac exerted himself in hard work, no one disturbed him. But as soon as water was found, the herdsmen of Gerar appeared, screaming "The water is ours!" (verse 20).

When Isaac's men dug another well and the Gerarites came again to dispute it, he named the second well *sina* (hatred). What if not hatred drove them to act this way after they had obtained, thanks to Isaac's efforts, ample water?

How did Isaac respond to this new wave of harassment? He kept to his course of bringing life and blessing to the wasteland. Reading the Bible carefully, we see that while the earlier wells were dug by the servants of Isaac, the next one he dug himself. The servants must have given up at this point, seeing that their efforts were constantly being thwarted.

They must have argued with Isaac, either to leave or to take up arms against the Gerarites. Isaac was now alone in assuming a firm stand knowing that in the long run he would succeed in turning his enemies into friends. His personal example at least would convince them that they could not break him no matter how hard they tried.

As we know, this policy worked. This time, the Bible tells us, there was no quarrel over the well. So "he called the well *Rehovor*, saying, now at last, the Lord has granted us ample space to increase in the land" (verse 22).

THE BIBLICAL story of relations between Isaac and the Philistines does not end here. It goes on to bring us full circle, when Avimelech and his chief-of-staff come to Isaac to

propose a peace treaty "now that we see plainly that the Lord has been with you" (verse 25).

The facts Isaac created in the area must be reckoned with for the good of the entire area. The story does not stop however even with the "happy end" of peace, but goes on to tell us of Isaac's continuing efforts in seeking more water sources. Isaac knew well that not one peace treaty, not even many of them, would make him fulfil God's command to "dwell in the land." This would come about only through persistent hard work of digging more and more wells of living water.

"Toldot" (Genesis 25:19-28:9) is the reading for this Sabbath. Rabbi Peli is the Blechner Professor of Jewish Thought and Literature at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

**KEEP ISRAEL BEAUTIFUL!**



THERE IS A SECTION of Rehov Hanevi'im in Jerusalem known locally as the "slave market." Close by the bus and taxi terminals of East Jerusalem, it serves as the main unofficial labour exchange for Arab workers from the West Bank and Israeli contractors in the city.

In the early hours of the morning, Monday to Friday, hundreds of men gather in little knots on the pavement to sell their basic skills as builders, plasterers or painters to small-time renovators and the odd do-it-yourselfer. Others claim to be plumbers or electricians, while the totally unskilled look for a day's work as a porter, cleaner or general labourer.

By 8.30 or 9.00 most mornings the vast majority of these itinerant day labourers have struck their deals and are gone. Thousands more, those with regular employment, use the city's bus service or are fetched for work by their employer's transport.

The same picture on different scales is true for the Erez junction north of Gaza, for the Rosh Ha'ayin junction between Petah Tikva and Kalkiya and the "checkpoint" near the Nesher cement factory outside Haifa.

ON MONDAY this week, Mahmoud, a 20-year-old unskilled labourer from Artas near Bethlehem was sunning himself against a low stone wall on Rehov Hanevi'im. It was after 11 in the morning. Apart from Mahmoud, there were perhaps another 50 men his own age or older hanging around the area.

"I haven't worked for the past two weeks," said Mahmoud who had leaped to his feet when I approached asking "Yesh avoda (Is there work)?" Some of his mates who had gathered round agreed with him that the situation was becoming tough.

Mahmoud started work at 17 as a building labourer and eventually moved on to cleaning at one of Jerusalem's hospitals. He left the hospital over eight months ago, hoping to attend one of the West Bank colleges, but found that he could not meet the fees. Since then, he has frequented the "slave market" and has been finding it increasingly difficult to find work.

"Abu Fayer" is an itinerant agricultural labourer in his early fifties from the village of Biddu near Ramallah. Until recently, he had no shortage of work in the moshavim on the other side of the old pre-1967 Green Line, earning between \$12 and \$15 a day.

"For the past two months I haven't found work every day. Now I'm working for an Arab in the

## In search of a market

By DAVID RICHARDSON / Jerusalem Post Reporter



Waiting for work in Gaza.

(Israel Sun)

village of Beit Nekuba. He pays \$10 a day.

If the employment situation continues to worsen, Mahmoud and Abu Fayer and thousands like them could find themselves working for the Jewish National Fund under a make-work relief programme now awaiting the approval of the ministers of defence, finance and labour and social affairs.

AN UNOFFICIAL poll of employers on who they would fire first was headlined in an item on the business pages earlier this week: "No discrimination against area Arabs foreseen."

But the reality is different, it seems. A news item the next day revealed that both the government and the Histadrut plans to combat unemployment "emphasize the need to clamp down on foreign workers, including those from the West Bank and Gaza working in Israel without permits."

Shmuel Goren, the Defence Ministry's coordinator of activities in the areas said recently that he was sure unemployment would increase in the West Bank and Gaza. "Even if it reaches 20 per cent it can be weathered for some time, because they have accumulated fat (resources and savings—D.R.) over the good years. More than that will lead to social unrest and create security problems."

During the second quarter of this

year, some 90,000 residents of the territories were estimated to be working in Israel, according to the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry. Fifty thousand came from the West Bank and 40,000 from Gaza; together they constitute about a third of the available work force in the territories.

Fifty per cent of those employed in Israel work in construction; 20 per cent in industry; 15 per cent in agriculture and the rest in various services. Two thirds of all those employed are "licensed" or organized labour referred through West Bank and Gaza labour exchanges and enjoy salary and social benefits similar to those in Israel.

BUT WITH ONE MAJOR difference. Residents of the West Bank and Gaza who have the same social security payments as their Israeli colleagues deducted from their salaries do not enjoy unemployment insurance. Instead, the money is transferred via the Treasury to a secret Defence Ministry fund which goes towards financing the running of the civil administration in the territories.

"The obligation to provide employment and the basic means for life exists," says Shlomo Amir, the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry official who drew up the programme to cope with unemployment in the territories.

His paper, presented to the coordinator's office earlier this month, is

basically a revised version of contingency plans prepared for an anticipated recession in 1975 following the Yom Kippur War. Then nothing happened.

Labour exchanges in the territories still report fewer applications for work than in Israel, and the official unemployment rate is still around 2 per cent.

But there are other statistical indications of the rising recession in the Israeli economy. Since the beginning of the year, some 6,000 labourers have been laid off by the country's larger construction companies—an increase in what was a normal turnover in the past. The number of requests for labourers is down by 50 per cent compared to the same months last year, and now stands at 1,000.

In addition, the 15,000-odd residents who used to find employment in the Gulf States during the late Seventies no longer have that possibility open to them, as those countries have cut back to meet the decline in their oil revenues.

UNDER AMIR'S PLAN, up to 3,000 labourers would be given work in labour-intensive public works. These would include road building and general maintenance in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as JNF afforestation schemes on both sides of the Green Line. Their pay would be 60 per cent of the lowest (agricultural) wages paid in the area—somewhere in the region of IS20,000 per month.

Military government officials have said that many of those laid off in Israel would initially go back to agriculture, working plots that were left fallow during the boom years of the economy. A common complaint from West Bank farmers is the difficulty of finding agricultural labourers.

Amir has also proposed doubling the capacity of the vocational training centres in the territories to absorb over 4,000 young men. These centres provide training in carpentry and metalwork, electricity, electronics, building, mechanics and sewing.

The initial cost for 10,000 work days and the preparation involved is estimated at some IS60m.

"It must be remembered that even if this plan is implemented, it is only a short-term solution," warned Amir. "The basic long-term solution requires, among other steps, an increase in the economic development of the West Bank and Gaza."

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post's editorial staff who reports on the West Bank.

## Something for everyone

By HAIM SHAPIRO / Jerusalem Post Reporter

YOU CAN get everything from dried algae, grown in Eilat, which might, if you're lucky, curb your appetite, to British-made evening primrose oil, which, according to a BBC report, could prevent heart attack. Today's health food shop offers many unusual items to attract the public in addition to the usual herbal teas and whole-grain products.

But if you are like most customers in health food shops these days, chances are the first thing you'll do is ask how much everything costs. Like everyone else, the people who buy in health food shops are price-conscious.

Among the many products that people keep buying are spirulina, an algae grown and dried in Eilat. Taken an hour before meals, it might, or might not, curb your appetite as well as provide vitamins. The green powder is not to everyone's taste, but these days it is preferred to the easy-to-swallow capsules that are imported and cost two or three times the local product.

Another favourite local consum-

ers are literally learning to swallow is brewer's yeast, a concentrated source of vitamin B. After a few weeks, one woman user told *The Jerusalem Post*, the taste doesn't seem so bad.

But whatever health foods can do for you, the proprietors of the health food shops have learned to keep quiet about it. "It's easier to buy hashish than to buy vitamins in a health food store," one proprietor who asked not to be named, told *The Post*. The Health Ministry keeps a tight watch and insists that vitamins be sold only in pharmacies.

Nor can the health store proprietors tell you what to do for your aches and pains, even if they are repositories of folk wisdom. Such advice could get them into trouble with the police.

Most shoppers who regularly visit health food stores are on the lookout for nature grains and related products. *The Post* learned that Sugat, packager of cereals and sugar, now has a complete line that includes granola, bran, wheat germ, whole wheat and burghul. On a smaller

scale, a cottage industry in the Jerusalem quarter of Nahlat, supplies the nature lovers and devotees of Eastern cuisine with tofu, or soy bean curd.

Not everyone is interested in buying a packaged product. Edith Abady, who owns Jerusalem's Ha'adama shop, says that her managers to bring the price down for her customers by buying items such as whole wheat flour and bran straight from the mill and selling them by weight.

He adds that only one in five of the people who come into his shop is a follower of some sort of vegetarian or naturalist regime. The others just like eating the less-processed foods that are becoming more and more popular.

Meanwhile, the customers in health food shops, like the rest of the country, buy cautiously and keep an eye out for bargains. They are far more aware of how much their favourite items cost in the shops, in the supermarkets and at the open-air markets.

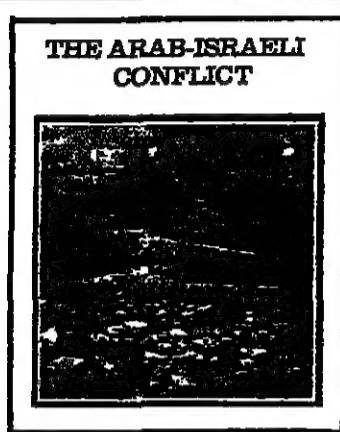
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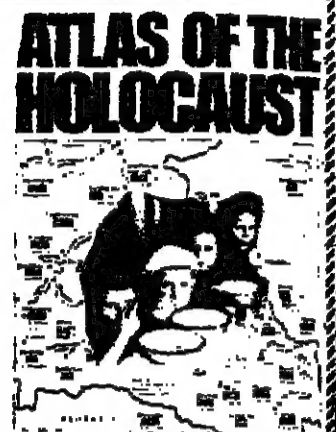
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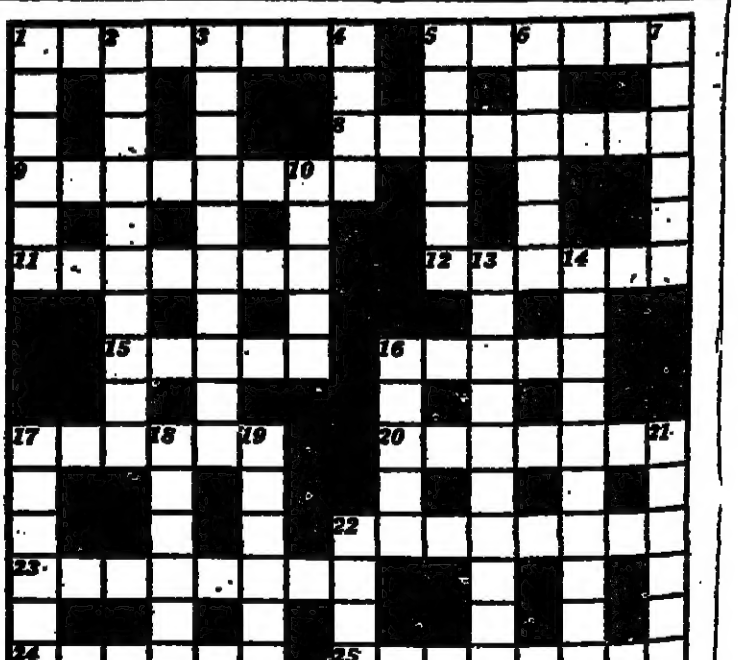
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## TWO-IN-ONE CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- Most Africans consider themselves above those who live here! (4, 4)
  - Dips, intending to clean up (6)
  - Novel that isn't copyright? Yes, indeed! (8)
  - They are well-suited to be high-diers (5-5)
  - Take it out in a thunderstorm, perhaps (7)
  - Gets stuck into the meat roll sharpish! (6)
  - Makes better parts of the feet, we hear (5)
  - Wren, I learn, is back inside the ship (5)
  - Being in debt finishes off one, could it be said? (6)
  - In the oven, a piece of meat is stored, a chop (7)
  - Ernst's food eaten by them! (8)
  - It's ridiculous to peer at this light entertainment (8)
  - Delicate part of steam train? (6)
  - He cuts open the head inside, finds a fish (8)



- DOWN
- Parts of trunks containing some organs (8)
  - ... And steals out to sea in it (6, 4)
  - Purloin something? Simple—relax (4, 2, 4)
  - Gas light (4)
  - Well groomed girls? Hope so! (6)
  - fast and loose with her affections (6)
  - Liver's upset—its whitish in colour, and hard (6)
  - They hear about a Pole, and how he gets his wages (5)
  - Errant knight? His were quite the reverse! (4, 6)
  - Labour with the object of becoming boss? Dissatisfied trade unionist may (4, 2, 4)
  - Great part of Poplar, Gerrards Cross & Wimbledon (5)
  - Sharp answer used by the chemist? (6)
  - Very much loved, dead or otherwise (6)
  - More than just nurse a relative (6)
  - It's pointless, sending out plan (6)
  - Commonly, fingerprints fish (4)

- 'Quickie'
- ACROSS
- Puts money in a bank (8)
  - Cut deeply (6)
  - Geometrical figure (8)
  - Frightful acts (8)
  - Never-stopping (7)
  - Tyrant (6)
  - To correct, or improve (5)
  - Hoods for monks (5)
  - Old word for "look!" (6)
  - Sounding happy, as a cat (7)
  - Type of lamp (3-5)
  - Puts wholly in liquid (8)
  - Abrupt (6)
  - Having dash and fire (8)
- DOWN
- Unscramble a cipher (8)
  - Execute (3, 2, 5)
  - Substantial helping of food (6, 4)
  - Drunkards (4)
  - Led along (6)
  - Eg. touch, taste, etc (8)
  - Had a sleep-fantasy (6)
  - Calmed (5)

- 13 Writer of nonsense (6, 4)
- 14 Commonly, fainting (7, 5)
- 16 France about (5)
- 17 Puts underground (6)
- 18 Belgian port (6)
- 19 A fruit (8)
- 21 Took out fishes' intestines (6)
- 22 Poisonous snakes (4)
- Yesterday's Solutions
- Quick Solution
- ACROSS: 1 Kodak, 4 Rectory, 5 Broom, 6 nation, 9 Opus, 10 Dale, 11 School, 12 Order, 14 Treach, 15 School, 16 Ripped, 17 Woman, 18 Clad, 19 Doves, 20 Trench, 21 Twenty, 22 Trench, 23 Trench, 24 Trench, 25 Trench, 26 Trench, 27 Trench, 28 Trench, 29 Trench, 30 Trench, 31 Trench, 32 Trench, 33 Trench, 34 Trench, 35 Trench, 36 Trench, 37 Trench, 38 Trench, 39 Trench, 40 Trench, 41 Trench, 42 Trench, 43 Trench, 44 Trench, 45 Trench, 46 Trench, 47 Trench, 48 Trench, 49 Trench, 50 Trench, 51 Trench, 52 Trench, 53 Trench, 54 Trench, 55 Trench, 56 Trench, 57 Trench, 58 Trench, 59 Trench, 60 Trench, 61 Trench, 62 Trench, 63 Trench, 64 Trench, 65 Trench, 66 Trench, 67 Trench, 68 Trench, 69 Trench, 70 Trench, 71 Trench, 72 Trench, 73 Trench, 74 Trench, 75 Trench, 76 Trench, 77 Trench, 78 Trench, 79 Trench, 80 Trench, 81 Trench, 82 Trench, 83 Trench, 84 Trench, 85 Trench, 86 Trench, 87 Trench, 88 Trench, 89 Trench, 90 Trench, 91 Trench, 92 Trench, 93 Trench, 94 Trench, 95 Trench, 96 Trench, 97 Trench, 98 Trench, 99 Trench, 100 Trench.

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# Money Matters

Friday, November 23, 1984 The Jerusalem Post Page Fifteen

## Third World breaks into tank market

LONDON (Reuters). - Several Third World countries have broken into what was once a small, powerful club of tank and artillery producers, an authoritative defence publication said yesterday.

In its annual review of armour and artillery, the British defence publishing house Jane's said developing countries had broken the hold of the U.S., the Soviet Union and a few European producers on the market.

"In the last ten years or so a dramatic change has taken place and today some 40 countries are involved in the manufacture of this type of equipment," Jane's *Armour and Artillery 1984-85* said.

Some smaller countries such as Greece and South Korea make equipment under licence, but according to Jane's, "there is an increasing trend towards designing, developing and producing indigenous equipment that can be exported."

Israel's Merkava MK-2 tank and Brazil's Engesa Osorio tank, both new projects, offer notable examples of new designs outside traditional sources of weaponry, it said.

Jane's predicted that competition for arms contracts would intensify dramatically during the next five years as a result of new producers entering the market.

## Political parties owe Haifa IS17 million

Jerusalem Post Reporter  
HAIFA. - Political parties are reportedly among the most offenders when it comes to non-payment of municipal rates here.

None of the main parties has paid rates on its premises for many years and the total now owed by political parties to the municipality is IS17 million, the municipal spokesman said yesterday.

He said details of the outstanding debts were sent to the local branches of the Liberal, Tehiya, Labour, Shitui, Herut and National Religious Parties last month, but the bills have still not been paid.

He pointed out that previous attempts to collect the rates from the parties had been unsuccessful and that none of them had property which could be attached in lieu of the money owing.

Mayor Arye Gurel, in a letter to the Interior Ministry, suggested that the amounts owing be deducted directly from government grants to the parties or that a new law be passed exempting parties from payment of municipal rates.

## Families seek help with mortgage payments

Jerusalem Post Reporter  
HAIFA. - Several dozen young families in the new Oren Haacem housing estate in the Nesher suburb have petitioned the finance minister for help to pay their mortgages, which are not included in the price freeze.

They noted that with their wages frozen, they will have to spend most of their earnings to keep up with their mortgage payments.

They asked the minister to find a way of granting them an extension on their mortgage payments to enable them to keep up the payments.

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DOLLAR PAZ AND EURO PAZ PRICES FOR 22.11.84			
CURRENCY BASKET		PURCHASE	SALE
DOLLAR PAZ: 1 UNIT		1688.0676	1701.0304
EURO PAZ: 1 UNIT		1872.5393	1875.4541
S.D.R.		560.2352	567.2253

FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES FOR 22.11.84			
COUNTRY	CURRENCY	CHEQUES AND TRANSACTIONS	
		PURCHASE	SALE
U.S.A.	DOLLAR	159.2113	566.1887
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	692.3625	701.5078
GERMANY	MARK	187.2150	189.5510
FRANCE	FRANC	60.9790	61.7399
HOLLAND	GULDEN	165.7413	167.8093
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	126.0562	128.8556
SWEDEN	KRONA	64.9718	65.7824
NORWAY	KRONE	64.1662	64.9671
DENMARK	KRONE	51.7740	52.4200
FINLAND	MARK	89.1884	90.1012
CANADA	DOLLAR	424.7712	430.0712
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	170.9800	173.8212
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND	312.1992	316.0946
BELGIUM	FRANC	62.5626	63.7599
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	265.4064	268.7179
ITALY	LIRE	300.0704	303.8145
JAPAN	YEN	229.4035	231.7596

## Ata workers: Managers must also go

By DAVID RUDGE  
Jerusalem Post Reporter  
HAIFA. - The works committee at Ata's plants in Kiryat Ata and Kerdaneh is demanding that management be included on the list of employees to be dismissed, works committee head Pinhas Groob has told The Jerusalem Post.

The list of employees of the bankrupt firm to be dismissed is being drawn up by the committee and must be submitted to the Haifa District Court on Sunday. Otherwise, the court will order Ata's closure.

Groob reiterated that the committee will not submit the list unless the \$400,000 still needed to ensure regular severance and retirement pay is found. The company's funds for this purpose are \$1.6 million short, and the government has agreed to put up \$1.2m.

Meanwhile, the 720 employees of Ata's sewing workshops in Carmiel, Yarka, Nazareth and Tiberias are concerned over the threat of dismissals. Sarah Kanzer, head of the works committee at Carmiel, said the plant only had enough fabric to ensure production until Sunday or Monday.

## Oil-from-coal firm wins case

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters). - South Africa's oil-from-coal firm, Sasol, has won a mysterious court case in which international businessmen claimed millions of dollars in what was believed to be the country's biggest legal claim.

A Rand Supreme Court Judge this week dismissed the case, which had been heard behind closed doors for more than six months.

According to press reports the complainants - British lawyer Maurice Seliger, a company called Trade and Technology (Holding), and Middle East businessman Ezra Nonoo - claimed up to 270 million rand (\$150m.) in connection with commission payments for supplying oil to South Africa.

The defendants were Sasol, a secret oil-buying agency called the Strategic Fuel Fund Association, and the honorary consul-general for Peru, Helge Storch-Nielsen.

Sasol pioneered production of oil from coal to beat an embargo by most oil-exporting countries over South Africa's policies of racial separation. But the country still buys large quantities of oil on the world market.

AIRBUS. - Nigeria will buy four Airbus A310 aircraft for its flag-carrier, Nigerian Airways, under an agreement signed in Lagos this week and a consortium of financial institutions from France, Britain and West Germany.

## Israelis wanted for JNF forestry work

Jerusalem Post Reporter  
The Jewish National Fund is looking for more Israeli workers for afforestation and land clearing projects throughout the country, the State Employment Service announced yesterday.

Employment Service director Baruch Haklai said the JNF employs about 3,000 forestry workers, nearly 700 of whom are Israelis. The Israelis live close to their work, he said, but the other workers must be transported to the job sites from the administered territories at great expense.

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## Market mixed as boomlet ends

And another one bites the dust.

The latest attempt to put some life back into the share market came to the now-usual ignominious end yesterday, as the rises of the previous two days ran out of steam. In their place was a mixed market, with the major indices all showing little or no change on the day.

Advances still led declines, though the margin was less than 2:1, but overall the market looked to be slipping back into the dull pattern which the interest rate cut had briefly disturbed, as it were.

Even the "arrangement" shares, for which some analysts had detected a particular demand, were mostly unchanged. In fact, there were large offers for Leumi, Hapoalim and Mizrahi, although these were absorbed with no change in the first two and only a slight drop in the latter. The demand, which was supposed to have been based on Finance Minister Moda's suggestion that the package deal might be followed by a large devaluation, seems to have faded away as quickly as it emerged.

The truth is that these share/bonds are now trading at yields around 18 per cent, and the slow pace of devaluation during the deal does indeed create a greater likelihood of a "catch-up" move of some sort, whether one-off or through extended large daily rises. In such an eventuality, dollar-linked assets in general, and high-yielding ones in particular - such as the bank shares - would certainly benefit.

## MARKET COMMENT

By PINHAS LANDAU

For the moment, however, there continues to be little interest in these investments, or in regular share purchases. To the extent that businesses and individuals are short of cash, there is also a move in the other direction, namely to liquidate these savings in order to raise money for debt-servicing, etc.

The bond market yesterday moved slightly ahead, but the indices to illustrate the extent of these gains are still not available. A stock exchange spokesperson told The Jerusalem Post that the non-appearance of the bond indices over the past week is the result of gremlins in the computer, rather than any act of policy, and they should be published again soon.

Volume in the bond market fell yesterday to IS1.26 billion, while in the share market the turnover rose to IS1.15b. However, the constituents of this larger share volume changed, as the whole IS200 million increase over the previous day went to the "arrangement" index, which therefore took 63 per cent of the total. The "free" market volume remained stagnant at about IS420m.

Over the week as a whole, the sharp gains of Tuesday and Wednesday were sufficient to leave the

General Share Index 5.50 per cent higher, with both "arrangement" and "free" share indices up by roughly this amount.

Insurance and real estate companies under-performed the market, rising 2-3 per cent, while industrials and oils were better than the average, gaining over 6 per cent each. Best of all were the investment companies, whose index rose almost 10 per cent, while financial institutions were easy winners of this week's wooden spoon, since they showed a fractional nominal loss.

Announcements: Elron said that it has agreed to set up a new company in Jerusalem, in partnership with an investor group headed by Jonathan Stern.

Elron will invest \$657,000 and receive 57 per cent of the equity in the new company. The existing company of Elron's partners, called Rosh Software and Computer Systems, will liquidate itself within six months, according to the agreement between the two sides, and the partners will operate solely through the new company.

Chal Electronics Industries notified the exchange that its board has decided to raise new capital through a rights issue.

Commissions. The exchange announced that, as part of the price freeze, minimum commission charges for transactions on and off the floor have been frozen for the duration of the package deal.

## Tel Aviv Stock Exchange daily price quotations

Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change
Commercial Banks			Gal Zohar			Asas	555.00	+2.0	Gal Ind 1	1801	-
Bank Leumi	557.52	+0.10%	Gal Zohar 1	no trading		Angel	514	46	Gal Ind 5	697	260
Bank Hapoalim	383.00	+0.12%	Gal Zohar 2	no trading		Shemen P	1040	44	Dexter	705	b.o.1 +4.9
Bank Mizrahi	679.50	+0.09%	DanHote 1	558	140	+3.3			Fertal 0.5	4610	3
Bank Discount	449.54	+0.40%	DanHote 2	294	410	+2.1			Fertal 1.5	1720	126
Bank Leumi			Leumi	393	292	-2.3			HaifaChem	1051	423
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 1	393	292	-2.3			Teva	6150	31
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 2	393	292	-2.3			Teva op. 4	4150	5
Bank Discount			Leumi 3	393	292	-2.3			Lipky	343	+1.4
Bank Leumi			Leumi 4	393	292	-2.3			Lipky op.	531	-
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 5	393	292	-2.3			Dead Sea	5710	213
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 6	393	292	-2.3			Petrochem	332	385
Bank Discount			Leumi 7	393	292	-2.3			Maxima	243	80
Bank Leumi			Leumi 8	393	292	-2.3			Maxima op.	228	51
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 9	393	292	-2.3			NocaChem	865	-2.3
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 10	393	292	-2.3			Sano 1	848	14
Bank Discount			Leumi 11	393	292	-2.3			Sano 2	640	-
Bank Leumi			Leumi 12	393	292	-2.3			Kedem	7574	-3
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 13	393	292	-2.3			Kedem op.	421	-2.1
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 14	393	292	-2.3			T.G.L. 1	321	136
Bank Discount			Leumi 15	393	292	-2.3			T.G.L. 2	1890	118
Bank Leumi			Leumi 16	393	292	-2.3			Prutrom	3900	7
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 17	393	292	-2.3			Wood	1009	70
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 18	393	292	-2.3			Wood, Paper, Printing		
Bank Discount			Leumi 19	393	292	-2.3			Dafra 1	613	15
Bank Leumi			Leumi 20	393	292	-2.3			Dafra 5	375	65
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 21	393	292	-2.3			Hamas 1	206	-
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 22	393	292	-2.3			Hamas op.	206	-
Bank Discount			Leumi 23	393	292	-2.3			Yach 1	390	9
Bank Leumi			Leumi 24	393	292	-2.3			Yach 5	476	-
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 25	393	292	-2.3			Yach op.	94	300
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 26	393	292	-2.3			Yach op. 5	29	29
Bank Discount			Leumi 27	393	292	-2.3			Mofet	1700	7
Bank Leumi			Leumi 28	393	292	-2.3			Pargol 1	34000	2
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 29	393	292	-2.3			Pargol 5	417	40
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 30	393	292	-2.3			Scandia op.	253	1.6
Bank Discount			Leumi 31	393	292	-2.3			Rim 0.1	1214	-3
Bank Leumi			Leumi 32	393	292	-2.3			Rim 0.4	752	26
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 33	393	292	-2.3			Tal B R	1990	10
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 34	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Discount			Leumi 35	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Leumi			Leumi 36	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 37	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 38	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Discount			Leumi 39	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Leumi			Leumi 40	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 41	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 42	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Discount			Leumi 43	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Leumi			Leumi 44	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 45	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 46	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Discount			Leumi 47	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Leumi			Leumi 48	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 49	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 50	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Discount			Leumi 51	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Leumi			Leumi 52	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 53	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 54	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Discount			Leumi 55	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Leumi			Leumi 56	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 57	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 58	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Discount			Leumi 59	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Leumi			Leumi 60	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 61	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 62	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Discount			Leumi 63	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Leumi			Leumi 64	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 65	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 66	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Discount			Leumi 67	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Leumi			Leumi 68	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 69	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 70	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Discount			Leumi 71	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Leumi			Leumi 72	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 73	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 74	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Discount			Leumi 75	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Leumi			Leumi 76	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Hapoalim			Leumi 77	393	292	-2.3					
Bank Mizrahi			Leumi 78	393	292	-2.3					</



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## A freeze is a freeze

FIFTEEN UNIONS in the public sector are threatening a strike beginning Sunday – and some are calling on the Histadrut to renounce the package deal – unless their members receive the pay increases arising from the framework wage agreement concluded last June. The Treasury has rejected the demand on the ground that no specific wage contracts providing for such pay increases were signed before the package deal went into effect.

Right and justice may well be on the side of the unions. The increases were due to be paid on November 1, a day before the package deal was initiated, even without the benefit of specific contracts. Besides, some if not most public sector employees obtained at least the first instalment on their increases in their October salaries.

Yet wisdom, commonsense and worker solidarity cannot be invoked in support of the troublesome unions.

There is little wisdom in the bid by union leaders such as Zalman Sherkman of the technicians union and Yitzhak Weiber of the teachers union for the scrapping of the package deal if Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i does not give in to their demands. For that will be the result if Mr. Moda'i does give in to the demands.

The reason is obvious. The government can easily print the money to finance the wage increases. Private industry cannot. But if the government sets a precedent by going along with the unions, the pressure for similar pay hikes in the private sector, so far bottled up, will become irresistible. A cost-push will in effect wipe out the entire waiver of the one-third of the cost-of-living allowance consented to by the Histadrut, and this will blow the package deal sky-high long before it reaches its date of expiry.

Commonsense should tell the unions that they stand to profit nothing from the wage increases they demand. The package deal already carries the risk of a fresh outburst of hyperinflation next February. Higher wages than those provided for in that arrangement will convert the risk into a certainty.

Finally, there is the matter of worker solidarity. It must be clear that, at a time when the government is struggling to cut its budget, a higher wage bill will translate into fewer public sector employees. Messrs. Sherkman and Weiber should take to heart the example set by the Health Ministry workers who have reportedly agreed to give up a few days' wages each month to ensure that budgetary cuts do not force staff dismissals.

The militant public sector unions may be able to ground their case in the letter of the package deal. But the spirit of that arrangement dictates moderation and self-restraint, not insistence on contractual rights. This is what Histadrut secretary Yisrael Kessar should be explaining to the union leaders. And Mr. Moda'i might contribute his bit to a settlement of the dispute by calling a halt, for once, to his abrasive oratory.

A model for a solution is available in last summer's negotiations between the Histadrut and the private employers. The principle of compensation for past wage erosion might well be granted, but its precise extent would be left for further examination – and actual payment would in any case be deferred until the end of the package deal period.

## Fight for control

THE VIOLENCE on the West Bank over the past two days, resulting in the death of two Palestinian students, has underscored the tremendous tensions generated throughout the area by the Palestine National Congress meeting that got under way in Amman last night.

This meeting of the PLO's highest policy-making body, held in open defiance of Syria and its protégés in the organization, has been widely perceived as perhaps the most significant in the two decades of the PNC's existence.

Its significance, however, does not lie in any major decisions that might be taken in Amman: these are likely to be humdrum, uncontroversial and a clear disappointment to anyone expecting something by way of a major peace offensive on Yasser Arafat's part.

Nor does its significance appear to lie in the kind of major split many analysts have been predicting, with Arafat and his Fatah aligned against the rest of the PLO grouped into a rival organization under Syria's aegis. The chances are that this is not likely to happen.

The significance lies, rather, in the fact that the meeting is taking place at all, and that Arafat has not wavered in his resolve to go to the brink in his ongoing battle with Damascus over just who is in control of the PLO – the Syrians or the Palestinians themselves. Having made this crucial point, Arafat is likely to adopt a conciliatory tone towards the two most important of the factions that have failed to attend: George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Nayef Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Despite their deep political and ideological differences, Arafat would, it seems, still prefer to leave the door open to the leaders of the two largest PLO groups after his own Fatah – if only to deny to any rival Syrian-dominated organization the kind of legitimacy the allegiance of Habash and Hawatmeh would plainly impart.

Accordingly, he is likely to leave vacant the PFLP and the DFLP seats on the major Palestinian political institutions that will be elected over the next week, and is unlikely to push through any far-reaching political decisions that Habash and Hawatmeh are unable to swallow.

In other words, what is at issue in Amman is Palestinian independence versus Syrian domination – and not, for the time being, the crucial question of future PLO strategy. A final decision on the question of "diplomacy versus armed struggle," which lies at the crux of all intra-PLO differences, is evidently going to await its resolution at some other forum, some other time.

# The key to withdrawal

By HIRSH GOODMAN

THE CURRENT talks between Israeli and Lebanese military delegations under UN auspices at Nakoura are but a single step toward an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. By themselves, however, the talks could lead to very little – certainly not to a full withdrawal of the IDF.

For the only people who can make those talks work – the Syrians – are not at the negotiating table. And without the Syrians there is no way the fragmented and polarized Lebanese government of President Amin Jemayel can come up with the basic security guarantees any Israeli government must receive before a full withdrawal can be agreed.

Each of the coalition elements within the government has its own agenda, its own constituency, and its own army. Jemayel himself is said to favour the IDF remaining along its current line of deployment, preferring Israel's presence to the Shi'ite revenge against the Christians that could occur in the south, as it did further north when Israel withdrew from the Shouf Mountains last year. Rather than the IDF should continue to sustain casualties and drain its resources while keeping the south at peace, according to this view, than the dubious Lebanese Army – itself a patchwork of ethnic madness that has rendered all but two of its brigades almost useless.

LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER Rashid Karamah has been obstinate in his talks with the Americans, demanding nothing less than an unconditional Israeli withdrawal. He has refused to countenance Gen. Antoine Lahad's South Lebanese Army being incorporated either directly into the Lebanese Army or as part of a territorial force in the south. And he opposes any redeployment of Unifil, the UN peace-keeping force.

In short, he sits at the Lebanese cabinet table representing neither himself nor his constituents, but the Syrians.

Druse leader Walid Jumblatt prefers a solution that would grant autonomy to the Druse – a confederated Lebanon, rather than a united one. Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri insists that confederation is impossible, because Lebanon's 1 million Shi'ites are spread thinly throughout the country and would be minorities in most regions of a confederated state rather than an overall majority, as they are in a united Lebanon.

WHETHER THE ISRAELIS stay or leave is basically a matter of

indifference to the Druse, who are concerned only that arrangements do not threaten their autonomy and territorial integrity: the Shi'ites will allow no solution that leaves the Christians as the dominant military force in the South or that allows for the return of the PLO.

Thus the myriad of almost irreconcilable ethnic interests guiding the Lebanese delegation through the Nakoura talks leaves little room for optimism. Even if the military delegations agree on interim arrangements for a partial withdrawal of Israeli forces, they can agree on nothing when it comes to the Bekaa. And it is there, after all, that most of Israel's forces are deployed, facing the Syrians.

So even in the unlikely event that the Nakoura talks do bear fruit, until Israel manages to speak to the Syrians any solution will leave most of the IDF in position. And one can assume that Shi'ite and Palestinian terror will continue to follow the IDF wherever it is in Lebanon. There may be a drop in casualties, but probably not for long.

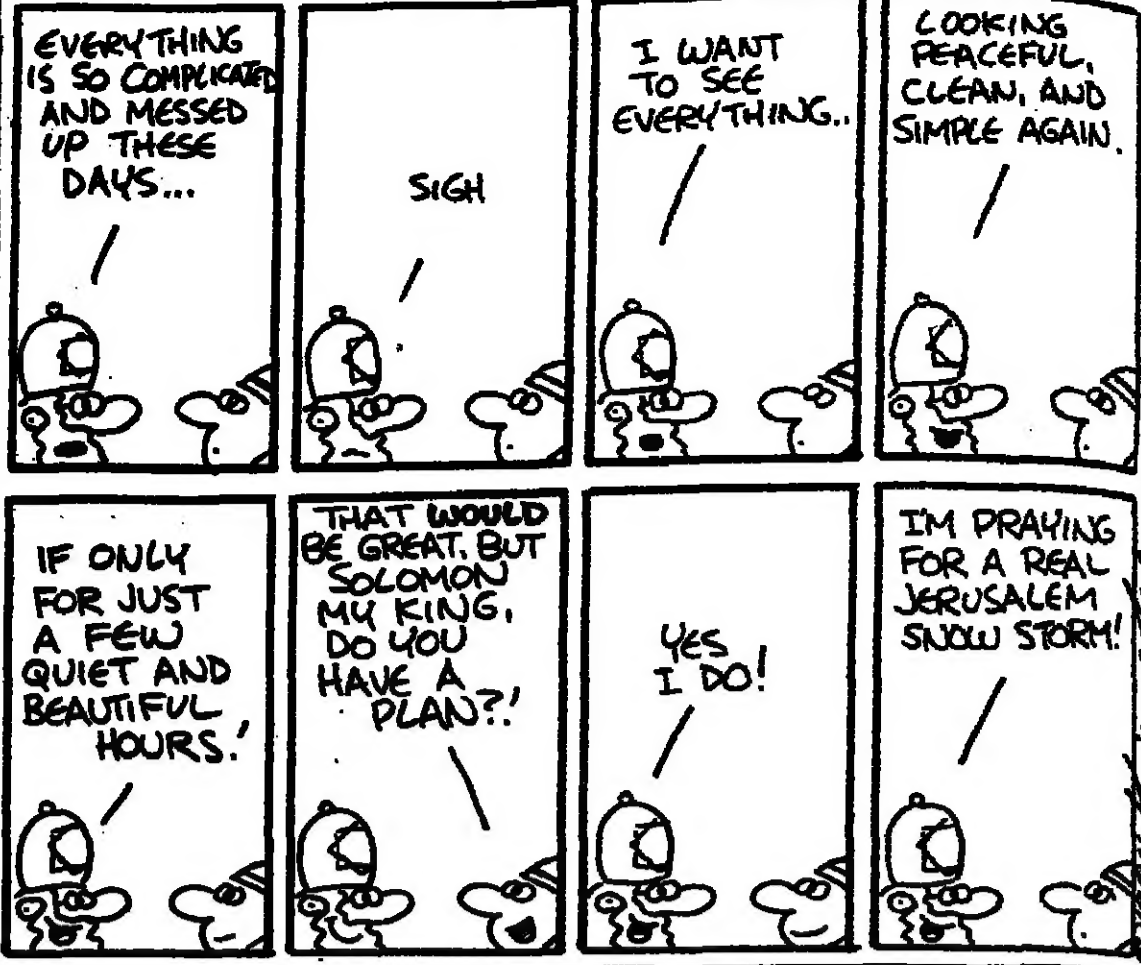
If Israel is to get out of Lebanon, some form of agreement with the Syrians is essential. Only the Syrians can deliver the government of Lebanon as a unified package. Only the Syrians can prevent a return of radical elements of the PLO, who are very

## Why should Assad agree to anything at all while he can hope for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal?

much under their control. Without Syrian approval, Unifil will not be able to redeploy, and unless Syria puts real pressure on both the Shi'ites and the PLO, Unifil will not be able to do its job.

Before the IDF pulls out of the eastern sector, it has to know that a Syrian move southward will not follow, and that the area vacated by the IDF north of the Israeli border will remain demilitarized. Only the Syrians can give that guarantee. Lahad's future is also very much in the hands of the Syrians, as is the safety of both the Palestinian and Christian communities in the south. THE PROBLEM is that it is not in Syria's interests to help the IDF reduce its casualties, or to help the government of Israel quell the inter-

## The Friday Dry Bones



nal public debate that surrounds this war.

What incentive could President Hafez Assad have in saving the shrinking Israeli defence budget an estimated \$300 million a year, which this occupation is costing, or in improving the morale of reservists, who are now going back to Lebanon for the third and fourth time, leaving

many casualties from terror as before.

THE ONLY incentive the Syrians could possibly have for making it possible for the IDF to withdraw – and for some modicum of stability to be restored – is an understanding that Israel is not going to put up with Syrian stubbornness indefinitely.

internal power struggle of explosive dimensions, and Syria's economic position is far worse than that of Israel. And Assad is still rebuilding his army, decimated in the 1982 war.

Israel is demanding that in return for a withdrawal Syria guarantee not to move its forces south of their current line of deployment; that the PLO under Syrian influence be controlled as they are on the Golan Heights; that the Lebanese government agree to a redeployment of Unifil north of the Awali and through the Bekaa; and that the force be doubled to around 5,500 men; that Lahad's forces be incorporated in some manner into the Lebanese Army, but retain enough cohesiveness to protect the Christian community and to prevent a return by the PLO; that Berri contain Shi'ite terror; and, in the ultimate analysis, that Syria agree to the "Red Line" formula that existed in Lebanon until 1976.

These winter months, during which any redeployment is almost impossible, will undoubtedly be used for diplomatic contacts between the sides. The talks will continue in Nakoura, and Murphy will probably continue to shuttle from Jerusalem to Beirut to Damascus. If by the end of the winter, however, no movement has been registered, Israel is going to have to make some hard decisions. It is quite possible that the spring could see gradual escalation between Israeli and Syrian forces in the Bekaa. Israel using disproportionate force in response to local incidents, to bring home to Assad that he is dancing on the precipice.

The writer is the Defence Correspondent of The Jerusalem Post.

### READERS' LETTERS

#### WHERE IS SHARON?

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir: – The word is out that we, the overburdened tax-payers, are paying for the present trip of our Minister of Industry and Trade to the U.S., accompanied by his wife, and son and aide to pursue his private libel suit against Time magazine. How does this fit with the policy of slashing government and ministries' expenditure? Will the minister also be getting his salary for the three weeks he is away?

It reminds one of his trip abroad just before we entered the war in Lebanon. I must admit, I never quite understood where Sharon was or what he was doing in those pre-Lebanon hours, except that his absence enabled him to claim later that he was not here to take responsibility.

Why should the Minister of Indus-

try and Trade be around when catastrophe threatens workplaces like Ata, or when his ministry produces the super snafu of "frozen" prices? Ministerial responsibility has never been Sharon's strongpoint.

Ariel Sharon has never been a man of few, soft spoken, carefully selected words. Thus I fear we may soon hear from Sharon in his self-appointed crusade against "one of the centres of anti-Semitism in the world" that there is a national consensus for his action in Manhattan. Consensus is a word Mr. Begin used to bandy about, without worrying too much about its meaning. What happens if "Time" sues Sharon for his statements and is awarded damages. Will we, the taxpayers, have to pay that too?

YA'ACOV BEN ISRAEL Tel Aviv.

#### NO, MINISTER

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir: – We are a very poor country. We have to go begging. We have not enough money for the teachers, the universities, the hospitals, the roads, the children; but there is one area in which we are rich, very rich. It is in ministers, with and without portfolios, deputy ministers, assistant deputy ministers, directors-general and of course, their secretaries, deputy secretaries, assistant deputy secretaries, telephones without fees, cars – the bigger the better – with mileage paid, insurance paid, drivers paid, and travels cum wife abroad paid.

This has got to stop. Our small country can do very well with six ministers who do their work as they see fit.

ILSE WINTERBERG Herzliya.

#### U.S. ECONOMY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir: – In an article in your November 2 Friday Magazine, Mark Segal draws parallels between this year's U.S. elections and Israel's 1981 Knesset elections. He says, "the difference, however, is that in Israel the perception of economic well-being was a total delusion, while in the U.S. it is very real." This is questionable.

President Reagan's tax cuts and defence spending increases have made the federal deficit soar, raising interest rates and threatening any real economic well-being. The "strong dollar," rhetorically paired with a "strong America," depresses U.S. industrial and agricultural exports. Imports are now going up much faster than exports, pointing to more unemployment now and in the future of these sectors.

The jobs affected by the rising federal and trade deficits are mostly held by people in the lower end of the economic spectrum, whose voices are not heard. They see the president's tax cuts as helping them directly, but they do not see how the resulting federal deficit and the strong dollar indirectly hurt them.

Real economic well-being in the U.S.? For those in upper-income brackets, possibly. For the country as a whole this economic well-being is unstable at best.

SANDRA LEE SARKON Jerusalem.

#### PENFRIENDS

MR. J. FLETCHER (60), of 7 Maxwell Street, Beaconsfield, West Australia 6162, has been studying the history and culture of Israel in recent years, and would be happy to correspond with any interested Israelis.

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 • THE HOUSE OF WOMEN – Chaim Bermant  
**AGAIN AVAILABLE**  
 • GODEL, ESCHER, BACH – An eternal golden braid  
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